

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	205
Leading Articles:—	
Hongkong's Defences	206
The Disruption of China and the Policy of Great Britain.....	206
The Eagles and the Chinese Carcase	207
Private Paying Patients at the Government Civil Hospital	207
Registration of Servants	207
The Trade of Wuchow	208
Supreme Court	208
An American Mission Station Attacked	209
Quarantine at Singapore	209
Arrival of the First Steamer at Chungking	209
The Philippine Rebellion	209
Murder of a Chinese American Citizen near Macao	211
The Death of Mr. H. Cook	211
An Aggrieved Husband's Revenge	212
Reviews	212
The Police Report for 1897	213
Alice Memorial and Netherlands Hospitals.....	213
Two Land Investment Companies	213
National Bank of China, Limited.....	214
The Punjom Mining Co., Limited	214
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited.....	215
China Sugar Refining Co., Limited	215
The Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited	216
Laou-Kung-Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Limited	216
Cricket.....	217
Hongkong Volunteer Corps	217
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	217
Correspondence	218
Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce	218
Russia and Korea	219
Extension of the Transit Pass Trade	219
Destructive Fire at Kobe	219
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co	219
The Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Limited	219
Railway Projects	219
Canton Notes	219
Macao	219
Hongkong	220
Hongkong and Port News	220
Commercial	221
Shipping	223

MARRIAGES.

At Chefoo, on 22nd February, 1898, at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate, and afterwards at St. Andrews' Church by the Rev. H. Mathews, HENRY H. BROWN, of the Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Limited, Tientsin, to ANNE JANE GARDNER, only daughter of Capt. and Mrs. DAMSTROM, of Chefoo.

On the 6th March, at 3 p.m., at the Synagogue Bethel, Shanghai, FANNY SPUNT, to A. R. ROSENFELD.

DEATH.

On the 8th March, in Egypt, EDGAR WILLIAM, son of Wm. PUGH, of Hankow, and Kenley, Surrey, aged 26 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 12th February arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 14th March (30 days); and the French mail of the 11th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 14th March (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Curzon has stated in the House of Commons that the steps required for the proper security of Hongkong have been occupying the Government for some time.

A Chinese American citizen has been murdered near Macao and it is expected that an indemnity will be demanded by the Government of the United States.

At Kobe on the 8th inst., a grog shop kept by a European was destroyed by fire and a seaman named Eaton was burnt to death.

M. Bons d'Anty, the French Consul at Szemao, has been appointed to the Consulate at Canton, and is to be succeeded at Szemao by M. Sainson.

The losses sustained by Insurance Companies through fires which have so far taken place in Kobe during the present winter is reported to be considerably over a million dollars.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received of an attack made by a Chinese mob on the American Mission premises at Chungking. One of the native medical assistants was murdered.

The announcement that the honour of K.C.B. has been conferred upon Sir Claude MacDonald has caused much satisfaction in the Far East. It is felt that the honour has been well deserved.

A Reuter's telegram reads as follows:—Russia continues to hurry troops to the Far East. Her own cruisers being insufficient it has been arranged to employ French ships, the first of which leaves shortly with 2,000 men.

M. Rocher, formerly a Commissioner in the Chinese Customs Service and afterwards for some time the head of the Customs Service in Tonkin, who was the chief of the recent Lyons commercial mission to China, has been appointed Consul for France at Liverpool.

The *Japan Herald* of the 3rd inst. says:—“As we hear nothing of an allotment of shares in the lately projected Japan Fire Insurance Company, it is to be surmised that the number of shares applied for was too small to warrant the Provisional Directors taking further action with regard to the project.

Japanese residents have succeeded in establishing a branch of the Red Cross Society in Seoul. The present membership is 60, and there are 30 new applicants. The Society in Japan has been distributing portraits of Miss Florence Nightingale, who they regard as the general patroness of the order.—*Hiogo News*.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements announced in the Legislative Council the other day that he had received permission from the Secretary of State to absent himself from the Colony on leave of absence, probably returning about the end of the year; and he proposed to leave by the mail steamer going to Hongkong on the 27th of this month.

A correspondent writes from Kiaochau that the number of the German troops now ashore amounts to about 1,000 men who are engaged in erecting forts and surveying for the railways. Provisions and coals are abundantly supplied and the Chinese in the neighbourhood believe that the Germans intend to take the whole of Shantung province.—*China Gazette*.

Owing to the occurrence of a few isolated cases of plague in Hongkong quarantine against arrivals from this colony has been declared in the Straits Settlements. Upon receipt of this information the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce wired to the Singapore Chamber requesting that body to use its influence to have the quarantine removed. A meeting of the Singapore Chamber was held to consider the matter and it was decided that the request of the Hongkong Chamber could not be complied with.

The telegraph station at Bolinao, which was in a state of siege for several days, was relieved on the 11th, by the arrival of a gunboat, which landed Marines. On the 15th General Monet and a thousand men arrived overland from Manila, and heavy loss is reported to have been inflicted on the rebels.

Count Muravieff has informed Sir Nicholas O'Connor that Russia is negotiating for a lease of Port Arthur and Talienwan for a certain number of years, also for a railway across Manchuria, that Russia had not demanded Sovereign rights, neither had she threatened to send troops to Manchuria. If the ports were leased to Russia they would be open to foreign trade.

The Chinese authorities have been much perplexed over the question of Prince Henry's suitable reception by the Emperor, and after considerable hesitation it has been decided that for the first time in Chinese history, His August Majesty will stand to receive his guest. The officials are as yet in much too great trepidation to discuss the details of the return visit.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

At the Shanghai ratepayers' meeting mention was made of Mr. Archibald Little's safe arrival at Chungking with his pioneer steamer, and it was resolved that the Council, on behalf of the community, and in consideration of the advantages that would accrue to commerce from Mr. Little's success, should send him a congratulatory telegram. The following is the text of the telegram sent:—“Little, Chungking. Ratepayers Shanghai public meeting tender hearty congratulations successful voyage. Burkill, Chairman.”

Troubles, says a native paper, still continue to be piled on the shoulders of the unfortunate Chinese Government, which must be in a sadly bewildered state owing to the multiplicity of the demands which are pressed upon it from all quarters. It was only the other day that it agreed to pay France 100,000 francs in compensation for the murder of a French citizen on the Tonkin frontier two years ago, and now the Swedish Government is clamouring for a definite reply to its proposals in connection with the settlement of the missionaries troubles which took place at Maoheng, Hupeh Province, a considerable time since, and which have never yet been adjusted.—*China Gazette*.

A Canton dispatch received at Shanghai from reliable quarters reports that General Liu Yung-fu, the famous Black-flag Chief of Tonkin, has received orders from the Viceroy Tan to go at once to the former's home in Kwangsi province to raise a brigade of his old adherents, who are now peaceable husbandmen with families of grown-up sons in the Reservation granted them during the general disbandment at the close of the war with France in 1885. There are reported on good authority to be over 18,000 old Black-flags and able-bodied young men in this Reservation, which is in the vicinity of the Tonkin frontiers, so as to be within easy call if there should arise troubles with France. But it must be called to mind that Kwangsi province was the cradle of the great Taiping rebellion, which owed its long success to the splendid fighting qualities and fanaticism of the Kwangsi contingent; and it is said that Liu Yung-fu and his Black-flags are by no means satisfied with the treatment they have received from the Imperial Government since 1885.—*N. C. Daily News*.

HONGKONG'S DEFENCES.

At length we have had some official reference to the unprotected condition of this Colony. The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, evidently in reply to some interrogation in the House of Commons, is reported by Reuter's Agency to have stated that "steps required for the proper security of Hongkong had been occupying the Government for some time." Apparently Mr. CURZON did not volunteer any hint of the nature of the steps referred to. It is, however, no secret that the Government have for the past two years or more been aware of the insecure position of the port in case of foreign attack, owing to the greater range of modern projectiles and the possibility of the city of Victoria and the Kowloon docks being shelled from Mirs Bay or the southern coast of Lamma Island. They have, for a much greater period, also been aware of the open door to invasion now presented by the undefended bays and inlets on the southern coast of this island. Not only is the whole water supply of the colony at the mercy of any invading force, but there is not a single fort, battery, or redoubt, nor solitary coign of vantage in any way utilised on that side of the colony. More than a year ago there was much talk of fortifying the southern approaches, but nothing was done, and we doubt whether even the plans were designed. The harbour is sufficiently protected, forts commanding both entrances, which are also mined, so that an enemy would indeed be bold to the verge of rashness who would venture to try and force a way through Green Island passage or the Lyeemoo. But on the southern coast there is no obstacle to be overcome, and several deep and inviting inlets with secure and comfortable anchorage; also some useful docks at Aberdeen, which would promptly fall a prey to the enemy if he approached with sufficient caution. Clearly there is good reason for the exposed condition of this important coaling station occupying the attention of the Government. Indeed it ought at the present juncture of affairs to afford them ground for much well founded anxiety. We hope that this anxiety does exist and will continue until they bring their minds to a consideration of the proper steps to remove the causes thereof.

It is necessary, and we believe the necessity is generally admitted by all authorities on the subject, that, in order to give the Squadron perfect freedom to pursue its natural rôle of protecting British commerce afloat, this colony should be self-protecting. To this end its borders should first be extended to the boundaries proposed, viz., to include the Kowloon hinterland as far North as Starling Inlet in Mirs Bay on the East, and to Lamkas Bay and Ty Shan Bay on the West, and southwards to include all the islands down to Gap Rock, including the Lema Islands on the East and the Ladrões on the West. This would enable the military authorities to provide against a descent over the passes down on to the Kowloon peninsula and the Naval authorities to close Mirs Bay to hostile cruisers, while the possession of the islands would give us the opportunity of sighting the approach of any hostile vessels and preventing their making any of these places into a base of attack. There would also then be no need to feel anxious as to the water supply, for this would be practically unlimited on the Kowloon side. The mere rectification of the frontiers alone would not, however, suffice to relieve all anxieties. It would still be just as

necessary to fortify the southern coast of the island of Hongkong, for the island must always continue the chief centre of wealth and population in the colony, no matter how much the colony may be extended. The garrison must at the same time be increased very largely. At present it is ludicrously insufficient for the purposes of defence, and it should be maintained at a point in excess of those requirements, considering the trend of events in China, the absolute necessity of being prepared to conserve our commercial interests in that country, and the great distance from any point from which it may be recruited, India, the nearest base being some fourteen days' steaming hence. Many years ago Sir GEORGE BOWEN was fond of styling Hongkong the Malta and Gibraltar of the East, and it has now become of certainly equal importance to those places from a strategic point of view and of vastly greater value from a commercial standpoint. Yet although this fact is generally recognised, both at the War Office and at the Admiralty, the Garrison is still maintained at only half the number of those of the two Mediterranean stations. If Hongkong belonged to Russia it would probably be garrisoned by twenty thousand troops, and if Great Britain is to speak with effect to possible foes at her Eastern gate and to reason profitably with China, she should maintain a potential force as garrison in Hongkong. That the Imperial Government have rather tardily recognised its value as a Naval base we have proof in the extensive additions contemplated, though apparently still far from commencement, at the Royal Naval Dockyard. It would be satisfactory to learn that its effective defence—by fortification of the southern approaches and the provision of a sufficient garrison—had been decided upon by the home Government.

THE DISRUPTION OF CHINA
AND THE POLICY OF GREAT
BRITAIN.

The *Times* compares the temper the of British people at the present time with that which prevailed at the time of the Crimean war. But it is now generally recognised that the Crimean war was a mistake, and that all the blood and treasure it cost were expended for nothing. To go to war about Port Arthur would be an even greater mistake. It is the destiny of Manchuria to fall under Russian domination. Great Britain may be able to postpone the fulfilment of that destiny for an uncertain period, but nothing can be more certain in the future of the political world than that Manchuria will ultimately become a Russian province. It is the duty of British statesmen to keep the province open to British trade if they can, and so long as we do the trade we need not mind very much who administers the country, except that the better the administration the more likely is trade to flourish and expand. And Manchuria under Russian administration and opened up by railways would constitute a much better market for British goods than it does under Chinese administration. True there is the danger of a hostile tariff being imposed, but even so the change in the administration would probably leave a balance of advantage in our favour. The illiberal fiscal policy of France and Russia naturally makes us look with coldness upon the territorial expansion of those countries, but if we think their policy inferior to our own we must at the same time recognise that their administration

is vastly superior to the displaced native administration. Tonkin and Cochin-China in French hands have been much better outlets for British trade than they would have been had they remained under native rule, and the same thing will be repeated in Manchuria. Had we any intention of annexing the province ourselves, or establishing a protectorate over it, there would be good reason for resisting Russian encroachments, by force if necessary, but in the absence of any such intention we fail to see what purpose Great Britain can have to serve in supporting Chinese rule, a rule too weak to support itself. Our interest is to look to our own expansion and not attempt to interfere with the expansion of other nations unless our interests are directly affected.

Seeing that the disruption of China is plainly approaching it would be better policy to secure at once what we require for ourselves and let the rest go than to lose the whole by attempting to resist the inevitable. The writer of an unsigned article in the *Contemporary Review* for February on "The Problem in the Far East" says the other Powers that have aggressive designs on China "imagined that England would follow their lead and commit the grave error of appropriating some part of Chinese territory as a material set-off to the places they had seized or contemplated seizing. Had we done so we should have played their game and lent our sanction and assistance to the work of cutting up China." Elsewhere, in the same article the writer says that "the real China, the China of the Yangtze Valley, of the strip of thickly peopled provinces from Shanghai to Hankow, and from Hankow to Szechuen, has not been touched. There lies the wealth and the true source of strength in China. This region constitutes the kernel of China, and the barren plains of Shantung and Pechili are in comparison but the husk." Let us then secure the kernel for ourselves and let those who want the husk have it. If that is playing their game we may well be content to play it. The true policy of Great Britain would be to resume possession of Chusan as a naval station and from that point dominate the Yangtze Valley, as we dominate the valley of the West River from Hongkong. In course of time the capital of China will have to be removed from Peking to Nanking or some other town on the Yangtze, and over the smaller but more homogenous and stronger empire that will then replace the present unwieldy and heterogeneous collection of semi-independent provinces Great Britain might well claim to exercise an effective protectorate, which would be advantageous alike to ourselves, to China, and to the world at large. But to try to preserve the China of to-day intact for ever is a hopeless task. It may not be our policy to hasten the inevitable disruption, but neither is it worth our while to make large sacrifices in order to defer it. The disruption must come sooner or later, and Great Britain must be ready to protect her interests when the day arrives. It is on the "kernel of China" that we must keep our eyes fixed, and Chusan is the point from which influence in that direction can be most effectively exercised.

A receiving order has been made at Shanghai against Messrs. Bennart & Co. on the petition of one of their creditors, but this, the *N. C. Daily News* says, is by no means the end of the claims of the firm against the Kiangnan authorities, as it merely transfers to the Official Receiver the task of pressing them.

THE EAGLES AND THE CHINESE CARCASE.

"Wheresoever the carcase is there will the eagles be gathered together." The carcase in this case is the vast and unwieldy body of China, moribund though not defunct; the eagles are the civilised Powers of the West and—the latest factor in Asiatic politics—the island Empire of Japan. It was through the latter's agency that the discovery was made of the rottenness of the Celestial Empire, a discovery that may yet have an important influence on Japan's own fortunes. The eagles in this case are represented by the vessels-of-war, which have of late been flocking out to these seas in a well nigh continuous procession. Germany, which formerly maintained a squadron of three vessels, has now quite a little fleet, and her new Colony of Kiaochau is to be garrisoned by a force of four thousand five hundred men. Russia, which has for several years past been steadily increasing both her naval force and her Siberian army, has now a most formidable squadron, and this is being still further augmented. Both her largest cruisers, the *Rossia* and the *Rurik*, as well as two new battleships, have been added to the squadron in the Pacific, and she is said to have threatened to despatch the rest of her vessels from the Baltic if necessary. To this challenge Great Britain has responded by sending out the battleships *Victorious* and *Barfleur*, the great fast cruiser *Powerful* has joined Admiral SEYMOUR's fleet, and various other formidable ships are on their way out. The French, determined not to be behind, have ordered out quite an important squadron of battleships and cruisers. The United States Asiatic Squadron has been reinforced by the addition of a cruiser, and another has since been ordered to join the fleet here from Honolulu. Even Italy is despatching a squadron to look after her interests (real or supposed) in Eastern Asia, and the advance guard of this force, represented by the cruiser *Marco Polo*, has arrived in this harbour. No doubt Austria will next take care that she is fittingly represented at the carving up of the gross celestial hog, and little Holland, having considerable interests in these seas, may despatch some cruisers to be present at the ceremony.

For, disguise the truth as we may, there can be little doubt that the ancient and cumbrous fabric of the Chinese Empire, if not actually in the throes of dissolution, is certainly about to suffer the pangs of virtual dismemberment. The actual operation may be deferred for a while by the influence of Great Britain and the United States, backed by Japan, but the agreement is too loose to admit of the real power of the three States being felt, and the preliminary experiments are already being conducted. To Germany belongs the honour of leading the van in this movement, her seizure of Kiaochau being the first step in the direction. True the territory is only leased, but after a prosperous German port has been founded and a trade established is it to be supposed that the lease will not presently become a freehold? The same remarks apply to the occupation of Port Arthur and the Liaotung peninsula by Russia. Leasehold first, freehold subsequently. It may be said that Great Britain set the example in this respect with Kowloon; but the circumstances were widely different, and this tiny territory was very slight compensation for a costly war. As we have said, Germany is now established in Shantung, Russia in Manchuria; Japan has clearly resolved, with this example before her, to make a free Japanese port of

Weihaiwei, and Great Britain will be compelled in the interests of her commerce and for the protection of Shanghai to re-occupy the Chusan Islands, while France is obviously preparing for the establishment of her flag in Hainan. Italy and Austria may next desire a port and sphere of influence in the Emperor KWANG SU's dominions. In any case there are already several great Powers established on the outer edge of the Empire, and it cannot be doubted but that in process of time—probably at no distant date—each foreign port will have an extensive territory behind it of which that port will be the dominating and perhaps the law giving force. The British Government have announced their policy in strong terms, but there seems nevertheless to be some little misconception as to what they intend in the event of the process of partition being continued. What Lord SALISBURY means, we take it, is this, that Great Britain will be no party to bringing about the dismemberment of China, but if such a policy be resolved upon by the other Great Powers, Great Britain will see that her interests do not suffer, and that if partition is effected she shall secure a share of the spoil, however unwillingly. This is the logical conclusion to be drawn from the assurances of Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Mr. GOSCHEN, and Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, unless they mean that for the sake of China we are prepared to meet a world in arms. Much as Great Britain and the United States might regret the necessity for the dismemberment of an ancient and historic Empire, neither would be so quixotic as to oppose by force of arms a combination of the Powers for the sake of upholding the rule of the most corrupt and effete Government in Asia.

PRIVATE PAYING PATIENTS AT THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The fees charged at the Government Civil Hospital for private paying patients are \$6 a day first class, \$4 second class, and \$2 third class. If a person engages a room in a hotel by the day he has to pay from \$7 to \$10, with "extras" in addition. Thus anyone coming from Canton or the coast ports for medical treatment in Hongkong finds it to his interest to go direct to the hospital, where for \$6 a day he secures board and lodging, medical attendance, medicine, nursing, and all necessary extras in the way of medical comforts. It is not surprising, therefore, that private medical practitioners complain of the unfair competition of the Government establishment. The ratepayers also have reason to complain. For persons of slender means who in case of sickness cannot afford to provide themselves with proper nursing and attendance in their own homes it is, of course, most desirable that accommodation should be provided in an institution, like the Government Civil Hospital, and that the fees charged should not be beyond their ability to pay. It is, therefore, not the third-class fees that afford ground of complaint, but the first and second class, and more especially the first. If a man earning less than, say, a hundred dollars a month falls sick and requires treatment in a hospital no one will object to his admission to the Government establishment at the rate of \$2 a day, more especially if he loses his pay while sick, but that persons in good circumstances should be admitted as patients at inclusive charges considerably below their normal expenditure when in health is an abuse that should be put a stop to. Persons living at the rate of two, three, or four hun-

dred dollars a month or over can go into the Government Civil Hospital when sick and for \$180 a month obtain not only board and lodging, but medical attendance, nursing, medicines, and medical comforts. Similar considerations apply to the second class. We should like to see the whole question thoroughly enquired into by a small representative Committee who would set private considerations aside and approach the matter from a public point of view only. The space in the Hospital given up to private paying patients necessarily diminishes the space left for destitute and necessitous cases, and it is said that the latter have sometimes to be refused because there is no accommodation for them. If first class patients are received at all in the Government Civil Hospital—which seems unnecessary now that there is a private hospital to which they can go—they should at least be called upon to pay full rates for value received; the charges should be rather over than under the rates charged at private establishments, since it ought to be the policy of the Government to encourage private enterprise in this direction rather than to compete with it. As to the second class, an inquiry might be made as to whether it might not be abolished altogether. The only difference between the second and third class, we believe, is that the former share small wards with one or two other patients instead of being treated in the general ward. The greater privacy is no doubt appreciated, but it is a luxury which should be paid for. We have also heard that Government servants who by the terms of their engagement are not entitled to medical attendance are admitted to the hospital on the reduced terms applicable to Government servants who are entitled to medical attendance, and who when in hospital pay only a nominal sum calculated to cover the cost of their diet. This also should be enquired into.

REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

The Captain Superintendent of Police in his annual report again raises the question of the licensing and registration of servants. "Several families," Mr. MAY says, "were boycotted by their chair coolies during the year, because the coolies objected to do a 'reasonable day's work.' Coolies who are 'dismissed for misconduct or dishonesty' find re-employment as readily as do well-conducted and honest men. Under a 'system of licensing and registration such' would be impossible." The impossibility which Mr. MAY so airily assumes would depend upon the nature of the system he proposes. Until that system is formulated it is impossible to discuss it in detail, but we very much doubt whether any system could be devised that would fulfil all that Mr. MAY claims for the one he has in his mind. His idea, judging from the above quoted extract from his report, appears to be that if a coolie is dismissed for misconduct he should be prevented from taking other employment. But who is to be the judge of the misconduct? Not the employers, for employers are sometimes harsh and unreasonable, and if an employer is the accuser he ought not to be the judge. An employer has the right of dismissal if he is dissatisfied with a servant, and if he has reason to believe a crime has been committed he can prosecute the supposed offender before the proper tribunal. But to constitute the employer himself the tribunal to determine the guilt of the accused and impose a sentence depriving the accused of the right to continue to earn his living would be an outrage on justice. That, however, seems to be what Mr. MAY thinks

should be done. Amongst Chinese servants, especially amongst chair coolies, there is a large proportion of truculent and insubordinate men who cause much trouble and annoyance to their employers, but registration has not hitherto been found an effective corrective. The system was tried for some years in Hongkong and broke down; it seems also to have broken down in Ceylon. A very rigid system of registration was some years ago brought into force by our French neighbours in Tonkin; whether it is still in force or not we do not know, but judging from the constant complaints that appear in the newspapers it would seem that the Europeans there have even more trouble with their servants than we in Hongkong. The servant difficulty is as old as the hills and exists the world over, and we fear its solution will not be found any easier in Hongkong than elsewhere. No doubt it would be very agreeable if the Government would provide us with an unlimited supply of servants who, like Lady Jane, would be as good as gold and always do what they were told; but we do not believe the Government will ever be able to do anything of the kind.

THE TRADE OF WUCHOW.

The Customs returns for the fourth quarter of 1897 show that trade is making substantial progress at Wuchow. The total revenue collected was Tls. 41,030, as against Tls. 36,241 in the previous quarter, or an increase of thirteen per cent., and to this amount transit dues contributed Tls. 10,198, as against Tls. 8,383 in the previous quarter. The principal item in the import trade is kerosine, the amount imported during the last quarter being 895,505 gallons, as against only 275,070 gallons in the preceding quarter. In piece goods there has been a falling off, only 26,642 pieces of cottons having been imported in the October-December quarter, against 45,531 pieces in the July-September quarter, while woollens fell from 5,239 pieces to 1,622 pieces. Metals on the other hand increased from 1,872 piculs to 2,628 piculs. It is rather disappointing to find that the piece goods trade is not making more progress, but corresponding quarters are rather brief periods on which to base comparisons. Possibly goods were rushed up a little too rapidly on the opening of the port, leaving a stock in hand which had to be cleared off in the following quarter.

SUPREME COURT.

16th March.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, R.N., (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

MAK LOK AND OTHERS v. S.S. "HAITAN."

In this case the plaintiffs sued for damages arising out of a collision between the British steamship *Haitan* (Master, J. S. Roach), and the *Kam Shun Hing* junk (Master, Mak Lok).

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defendants.

The hearing of the case was commenced on the 2nd March.

His Lordship delivered the following written judgment:—

This action is brought against the owners, the master, and all others interested in the steamship *Haitan* and her freight to recover damages on account of a collision between her and the junk *Kam Shun Hing* which occurred on the night of the 4th August, 1897. The

plaintiff Mak Lok, as owner of the junk and of her freight and of money and personal effects lost in her, claims \$3,700.00; the owners of the cargo claim \$6,058.86; Mak Tang Lung, the master, claims for clothing and personal effects \$10.00; and the crew claim for clothing and personal effects \$40.00, making a total claim of \$9,808.86.

The junk was a three-masted vessel, of 800 piculs light and 1,600 piculs heavy cargo, and the *Haitan* was a screw steamer of 1,183 tons registered tonnage. The junk was on a voyage from Haimun, a port to the south of Swatow, to Hongkong, while the steamer was proceeding from Hongkong to Swatow. The collision took place about 11 p.m. on the 4th August, 1897, at a point on the coast of China somewhere between Chiliang Point and Pedro Blanco Island. The wind was blowing from the east or nearly east, and was of moderate force, with a tendency to die away at intervals. There is some conflict of evidence with regard to the state of the weather, the evidence for the plaintiffs representing it as fine and clear, with the stars visible, while the evidence for the defence goes to show that it was cloudy and overcast and very dark, but clear on the water. It is agreed that there was no moonlight. The witnesses for the plaintiffs allege that they first made out the steamer at a distance of about three miles, while those for the defence assert that a vessel like the junk could not have been seen, without lights, at a greater distance than half a mile. On the whole I am inclined to think that the evidence for the defence has somewhat exaggerated the darkness of the weather. The tide was of little force, with a south-westerly current.

It is not disputed that the steamer was carrying the regulation masthead and side lights. With regard to the lights of the junk there is a direct conflict of statement. The three witnesses who were examined on behalf of the plaintiffs and who were on board of the junk at the time of the collision state positively that there were two white lights carried by her,—one at the fore-mast head and the other at the mizzen-mast head. On the other hand, three of the witnesses called for the defence, who were on board of the steamer at the time of the collision, assert as positively that the junk carried no regular lights, and that there was only a flare-up or other light seen on her deck immediately before the collision. The witnesses for the plaintiffs, who were all Chinese, gave their evidence in a manner which was unusually clear and satisfactory for that class of witnesses. One of them stated that it was his duty to attend to the lights and that he hoisted them about sunset on the evening in question. On the other side, while I see no reason for thinking that the witnesses for the defence desired to wilfully mislead the Court on this point, I have to remember that the light on the mizzen-mast head may very well have been concealed from them by the sails of the junk, and that, in the very short period of excitement which elapsed between their first getting sight of the junk and the collision, they may not have observed the light on the fore-mast head. I was not impressed by the evidence given on behalf of the plaintiffs to show that some one of the junk's crew had, on board the steamer immediately after the collision, made an admission to the effect that the junk was not carrying lights. On the balance of evidence I come to the conclusion that the junk was carrying the two lights above-mentioned. There was also a light on the after part of the deck near the compass.

There is again a considerable conflict of evidence with respect to the circumstances and cause of the collision. It may be convenient that I should shortly summarise the accounts given by the parties respectively on this head.

First, with regard to the plaintiffs' story. For the purposes of navigation a man named Chan A Kwai was master of the junk, and he was at the helm on the evening in question. A man named Mak Tang Lung was on the look out. The crew was nine, all told. Some time before the collision the mast head light of a steamer was seen, at a distance of about three miles. Both vessels were then on the open sea, and apparently there were no other vessels in sight. According to the preliminary act the course of the junk was then about south-west, but according to the oral evidence the course was only one point of the Chinese compass removed from west. There were two sails spread,

that of the fore-mast on the port side and that of the main-mast on the starboard side. The wind, which was very light, was nearly aft, and the vessel was moving slowly through the water. There was very little sea. All the crew were on deck and awake. When first seen the steamer's light was right ahead. Shortly after it was seen the master of the junk changed her course little by little and brought it due west or towards the shore. At the same time the sails were slackened a little. Soon afterwards the red light of the steamer was seen a little on the port bow. The course was not again altered. The green light of the steamer was never seen. As the steamer seemed to be bearing down on her, the master of the junk gave orders to burn flare-up lights, and this was done once or twice by Mak Tang Lung. The crew also shouted out to attract the attention of the people on board the steamer. Shortly after the red light was seen, the steamer changed her course a little to the left, that is, towards the junk. She did not slacken her speed, and in a very short space of time she struck the junk on the port quarter at an angle of about 45 deg. The after part of the junk was cut away by the force of the collision and fell over into the water; the light on the foremast was extinguished by the shock; and the junk began to fill. One of the crew clambered into the bows of the steamer, and the rest were picked up by her boat, which was lowered for that purpose. The steamer afterwards proceeded on her voyage, and the next morning landed the crew of the junk at Swatow.

For the defence the occurrence is described in the following way. Before the junk was seen the steamer was proceeding on a course east by north half north, at a speed of about 11 knots an hour. The third officer was on the bridge in charge of the navigation of the vessel; a Malay seaman was at the wheel on the bridge; and a Chinese seaman was on duty as look-out in the bows. The master, Captain Roach, was lying down in the chart-room underneath the bridge. The wind was freshening. About 11 p.m. the third officer, standing on the port side of the bridge, saw the sails of a junk ahead about a point on the port bow. She was about a quarter of a mile distant. The third officer and the master say that both her sails were on the starboard side. About the same moment the look-out man reported her. The third officer seized his glasses—which were on the bridge close to him—and with them made out a large junk, with the wind on the port quarter, heading west south west, as far as he could see, and going about three and a half to four knots. As that course would have brought her across the steamer, he gave the order to put the helm hard-a-starboard. The object of this manoeuvre was to cause the two vessels to pass one another starboard to starboard. The order was obeyed immediately; the vessel, answering her helm, came round one point to port, and then had the junk right ahead. The junk then, being at a distance of 50 to 100 yards, ported her helm and eased off her sheets, trying to come right round and bringing her head to the west. The result of this manoeuvre was that the junk attempted to cross the bows of the steamer from starboard to port. Meanwhile the master in the chart room had heard the wheel being put hard over, and at once came on the bridge. When he got there, he saw a junk right ahead, hanging almost right across the bows of the steamer from starboard to port. He immediately put the telegraph full speed astern. There is some variation between the statements of the third officer and the master on the subject of the position of the junk when the master came on deck and gave this order. The third officer says the junk was then in the act of changing her course; the master says he saw nothing of any change of course on her part. There is also some uncertainty as to whether any further order was at the same time given by the master. The third officer says that the helm was kept hard-a-starboard until the moment of the collision, and that the only order given to the helmsman was that given by himself; the master says he believes he gave the order to steady the helm, but cannot be positive on the point; while the helmsman is clear that the master gave such an order and that he obeyed it. These contradictory statements help one to realise the imminence of the collision at the

moment and the state of confusion and excitement that prevailed on the steamer. It is explained that the object of reversing the engines was not only to deaden the way of the steamer, but also to cant her head to starboard. The order was instantly obeyed; in about eight seconds the engines went full speed astern from full speed ahead; and according to the evidence of the third officer, the speed of the steamer was reduced by more than one-half and she was only going three or four knots at the time of the collision. But it was too late: a collision could not then be avoided; and the steamer struck the junk on the port quarter, at an angle a little greater than 45 degrees. She then lay by, lowered a boat, and took off the crew of the junk. The officers of the steamer do not seem to have troubled themselves to ascertain the ultimate fate of the junk, but there can hardly be any doubt that she soon sank. Next day her crew were landed at Swatow.

It will be seen that while these two accounts agree in some particulars, they differ materially in others. But it does not appear to be necessary to discuss these variances in detail, because the opinion which I have formed on the question of the carrying of lights by the junk is really decisive of the case. For on the hypothesis—which I think is well founded—that the junk was carrying lights, I am of opinion that on the night in question the steamer should have made out her fore-mast light at a distance of about three miles. In this event there would have been ample time for the steamer to quit herself of the obligation laid upon her by the regulations for preventing collisions at sea to keep out of the way of the junk, and it is hardly possible to believe that she would not have succeeded in doing so. In this view of the case, then, I think the steamer is to blame for the collision. But I may go further and say that, even if the finding on the question of lights had been adverse to the junk, the result would not have been different. For it appears to me, on a consideration of the evidence given on both sides, that, if an efficient look-out had been kept on the steamer, the junk would have been made out at a greater distance than a quarter of a mile. But further I am of opinion, having regard to all the circumstances detailed in evidence, that the distance at which the junk was actually sighted by the steamer has been over-stated and that it was less than a quarter of a mile. The third officer says that as soon as he made out the junk with his glasses he ordered the helm of the steamer to be put hard-a-starboard. It is clear that, immediately after this order had been given and obeyed, the master came on the bridge and signalled to the engine room to put the engines full speed astern. But the master says "My impression is that when I came on the bridge, the collision was inevitable." I have no doubt that this was so; that the steamer was then almost on to the junk; and that nothing could have been done to avoid the collision. This view is borne out by the evidence of the helmsman, who says that the master signalled to the engine room and gave him the order to steady the helm at one and the same moment. Then he adds, "Directly the word 'steady' was given the collision took place." I believe the statement of the third officer that the junk changed her course after the steamer had sighted her, and not at a considerably earlier period, as is alleged by the witnesses for the plaintiffs, but, even supposing that this manoeuvre contributed to the collision—which I doubt—I am of opinion that the master of the junk must be excused for taking it in the emergency of the moment when he found a steamer bearing down on him and within a few hundred yards.

I am also of opinion that when the steamer first sighted the junk within so short a distance she should have slackened her speed or stopped or reversed. If this had been done at once, the risk of a collision would have been much diminished. Further, I think that, as the junk was on the port bow of the steamer and never on her starboard bow, it was an error of judgment on the part of the third officer to starboard the helm of the steamer. If the helm had been put hard-a-port at the moment of sighting, it is clear that the vessels would have passed one another in safety. I think it right to say that, on the evidence before the

Court, the master of the steamer cannot be held in any way to blame for the collision; indeed, he appears to have done all that was in his power to avert it. He is also to be commended for the prompt and effectual measures which he took for saving the lives of the crew of the junk.

In the opinions which I have now expressed, so far as they relate to matters of nautical skill, the Nautical Assessor concurs.

The result of those opinions is that the S. S. *Haitan* must be held solely to blame for the collision, and judgment must be entered for the plaintiffs, with their costs of the action. There will be a reference to the Registrar and merchants to assess the amount of damages sustained by the plaintiffs.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE, PUISNE JUDGE.

REUTER BROCKELMANN AND CO. v. WING SHUN AND CO. AND ANOTHER.

This was an action for \$875 being damage suffered by the plaintiffs on account of a collision between their schooner the *Kutsing* with the s. s. *Saikong*.

At the time of the collision the *Kutsing* was in tow of the defendant's steam launch *Wing Kwai*, and was being towed from Hongkong to Canton; and the *Saikong* was at anchor in the Canton River off Deep Bay.

Mr. Hastings appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendants.

No witnesses were called for the defence.

Mr. Hastings submitted that the *Wing Kwai* was solely to blame for the collision, as she was navigated in a reckless and negligent manner, and nothing that those on board the *Kutsing* could have done would have averted the collision.

Mr. Pollock admitted that the *Wing Kwai* was somewhat to blame, but contended that the *Kutsing* was guilty of contributory negligence in that she might have starboarded her helm or let go the tow rope and so have avoided the collision.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said that it was admitted that the *Wing Kwai* was to blame, and the only question therefore was whether there was contributory negligence on the part of the *Kutsing*; if so, of course she could not recover anything. He then reviewed the evidence and came to the conclusion that there was no negligence on the part of those in charge of the *Kutsing*.

Judgment was therefore entered in favour of the plaintiffs with costs.

AN AMERICAN MISSION STATION ATTACKED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS." SHANGHAI, 17th March.

A mob sacked the American Mission in the suburbs of Chungking.

The Chinese Medical Assistants were maltreated and one of them murdered.

QUARANTINE AT SINGAPORE.

THE SINGAPORE CHAMBER DOES NOT FAVOUR ITS REMOVAL.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DAILY PRESS.] Singapore, 14th March.

A special meeting of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce was held to-day to consider the Hongkong Chamber's appeal for the abolition of quarantine.

The Singapore Chamber decided that it could not comply with the Hongkong Chamber's request.

[When it was notified that quarantine had been imposed at Singapore against Hongkong the Chamber here telegraphed to the Singapore Chamber requesting that body to use its influence with the Straits Government to have the quarantine removed.]

The shield competition football match between Kowloon and 25th Co. S.D., R.A., played on Saturday, last resulted in a win for the Artillerymen by three goals to two.

ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST STEAMER AT CHUNGKING.

SHANGHAI, 11th March.

News was received yesterday by wire of the safe arrival on the 8th instant at Chungking of Mr. Archibald Little's pioneer steamer, the *Leechuen*, after a series of dangers and excitements. It is now demonstrated that a small steamer of only moderate power can be got safely over the rapids of the Upper Yangtze.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

A NEW REREL CHIEF.

Although it is very likely that the Philippine rebels have obtained a strong position in the country between Manila and Bolinao, Manila itself has not been affected in the least. Trade is still in a flourishing condition, and the residents in Manila apparently feel themselves quite safe from attack. As the town is surrounded by thousands of Spanish soldiers, there is some foundation for this comfortable feeling. Reports of conflicts between the rebels and the Spanish troops are daily received in the town, and losses on the Spanish side are said to be somewhat numerous, but the people are on the whole apathetic about affairs and doubtless will continue so unless their commercial interests are threatened with interference.

A native, name unknown, has proclaimed himself chief of the rebels and the rebels have duly recognised him. If he is not killed he hopes in due time to receive his reward from the Spanish Government or from anybody else who likes to offer a good price for temporary peace. Aquinaldo fetched a big sum for such a short-lived cessation of hostilities, but the new chief has only to bide his time and he will be a millionaire.

It is said that the Government did not pay a cent to Aquinaldo and his esteemed confreres. The whole of the money paid over to the ex-rebels came out of the pockets of the wealthy Spanish priests. The priests, it is reported, were threatened with banishment from the islands, but the threat never became operative because the priests, acting no doubt under pressure of the officials, bought over the rebel leaders and so were graciously permitted to resume their ordinary avocations. This species of blackmail will doubtless come in very handy again should the rebels require wooing with money. Capital before country is a golden rule with some people, and there are many in Manila and the districts who go with the side that pays the best. They work for the rebels if the pay is good and for the Spaniards if the pay is better, and vice versa.

EXCITING TIMES AT BOLINAO TELEGRAPH STATION.

SPANISH TROOPS SURPRISED AND MASSACRED.

The Bolinao staff of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company had rather an exciting time during five days last week owing to a rising of the natives against the Spanish Government, the station having been besieged by the natives on account of some Spanish soldiers taking refuge there, the telegraph office and staff's quarters being the strongest building offering any chance of defence in the place. The position of the Company's staff was most trying, owing to the fact of their being on friendly terms both with the rebellious villagers and the officials and soldiers of the Government within the building, who, together with the staff, numbered 34 souls, including some native women and children. The news of the events as they occurred are best given in the words of Mr. Pattie, the Superintendent of the Company, and his staff, who reported the same by wire to the Manager of the Company in Hongkong, to whom we are indebted for these details:—

"7th March.—About two o'clock this morning the Government landlines to Manila were cut. We were advised that hundreds of rebels entered the village. They killed two European and one native soldier. The rest of the soldiers, consisting of eight men, escaped to our station, which we have barricaded as well as we can. At six o'clock, the rebels sent word that they

would not in any way interfere with us, but if the soldiers were in the Station, the best thing we could do was to leave the Station or get the soldiers out of it, because if the soldiers did not leave before 4 p.m. they would attack. We told them that we could not leave the Station, but would observe strict neutrality, and at the same time told them we could not clear the soldiers out. We are still parleying and have hopes that some arrangement will be concluded so that the rebels allow soldiers to leave in boat. The Spaniards in village and priests managed to escape in a boat, but don't know where they have gone: the rebels are on their track, and if they catch them, they will all be killed. Report says that there are about 400 rebels. They have sent twice to tell us that we will not be molested in any way, but if we cannot get soldiers away, we will have a lively time of it. Cannot get any assistance from Manila, as line is cut, and I suppose they have cut it in many places. It is reported that five of the surrounding villages have also risen. It is the Bolinao people who are in arms, and as we have always been on good terms with them they don't want to hurt us. Have spoken to the Government Telegraph Superintendent, and he says that we can notify the interruption. He does not care about doing it himself. Our delegate has just arrived from rebel camp. Will let you know what they say."

"7th, 4 p.m.—The rebels still insist on saying if we get rid of soldiers we are safe, but soldiers will not leave, and now they have made a regular fort of our place, putting up blocks, stones, boiling caldrons of water. (When these words were being signalled to Hongkong the rebels got into the grounds and the staff were advised by Hongkong to clear out of the building if they could do so. This was, however, not necessary as the soldiers were able to drive the rebels back with a few shots).

At 4.15 p.m., Bolinao signalled.—"We notice the European women and priests are captured and led back to the village; but two Spaniards seem to have been killed."

Nothing further happened at the Station after this, and the night of the 7th remained undisturbed, the office and quarters being kept in total darkness.

On the 8th, the rebels sent round again in the morning asking the staff to leave the building as they intended to attack at ten o'clock. This, however, the staff would not do. On the 9th, report came in from the rebels during the day that the Governor-General had left Manila for Europe, on the 5th, and that the whole of the Philippines had risen, all Spaniards had been killed in Manila, and that the country was in the hands of the rebels. This was hardly to be credited, as Manila is well garrisoned, but no help reaching from Manila by sea looked suspicious. The rebels also stated that some Spanish gunboats had been captured. No further move was made by the rebels at Bolinao to-day, owing to the absence of the rebel chief, a full-blood native, who was reported to be on his way to them. A launch came in during the day, and after skirting beach made for one of the small bays, and got out of sight.

On the 10th, Bolinao reported that the rebels seemed to be increasing and that there was no sign of any help from Manila. The staff were still able to get food from the village, but a servant who had gone out for firewood, yesterday, had not returned. The rebels sent in an ultimatum, that they would attack the Station if arms were not delivered up, and that they would spare the soldiers' lives if this was done.

Some parleying went on after this, and on the receipt of a long letter from the rebels, one of the Company's staff went to them to try and arrange matters, and brought back the news that the surrender of the two rebels captured by the soldiers and taken to the Station on the day of the rising was demanded that day, and that the Company's staff had permission to come and go whenever they liked. If these conditions were not fulfilled they intended carrying out the original plan of attacking the Station. The corporal in charge, however, refused to surrender the prisoners at any price. This corporal is evidently a splendid fellow. He is only twenty years of age and has shown great tact. No attack was made up to the night of this date, and all precautions were taken at the Station to meet a night attack.

On the morning of the 11th, one of the Company's staff again went to the rebel camp to that if the usual fortnightly steamer due the next day did not arrive, the corporal would surrender arms. The reply came back that the chief rebel required the corporal to meet him half way between the camp and the office, that he must not fear as he gave his word of honour that no harm would come to him. The Corporal refused the request, being against Spanish law, but repeated that he would surrender arms if no steamer arrived by to-morrow. Company's delegate then went back to say this, but noticing great commotion amongst the rebels hurried back to the Station after having overheard one of the rebels say that a warship was in sight. There was, however, no signs of it from the Station, but it was considered probable, as the rebels had sentries at the mouth of the harbour, whence they could see further. The native craft suddenly became very active, and the men at the Station concluded that they were either preparing to attack or to leave the place.

At 2.40 p.m., a gunboat arrived, much to the relief of all, and after landing 107 marines, the doors of the Station were once more opened, but heavy firing followed between the Station and the rebel camp, during which many of the rebels are said to have been killed, the Spaniards losing one soldier. The night passed quietly.

On the 12th, at 8.30 a.m., a merchant steamer and a Spanish cruiser arrived at Bolinao with Mr. Jones, the Company's Manila Superintendent, and Telegraph-Operator Wright, on the former. They brought with them the necessary telegraph apparatus to be able to communicate with Hongkong in case the Station was destroyed.

On the 13th H.M.S. *Edgar* arrived at Bolinao, and with this and the reinforcements sent by the Spanish authorities, the position of the Station became quite safe.

The following telegraphic information was received from the Bolinao Telegraph Station on the 15th, by the Head Office in Hongkong:—

"General Monet and one thousand men arrived overland last night, and reported that he had five engagements between Bolinao and Lingayen. The insurgents suffered heavy losses, and the Spanish losses were one lieutenant and one soldier. The garrison and priests of neighbouring villages had been killed, only six soldiers managing to escape. In some villages the garrisons surrendered their arms on condition they would be allowed to go to the nearest friendly village. This the rebels agreed to, but after getting their arms the soldiers were killed, proving that the Bolinao garrison was only spared on account of the English staff being there. The telegraph line from Lingayen to within a few miles of Bolinao Station has been cut to pieces, and a party is now engaged repairing it. General Monet leaves a garrison of 300 men, and returns to Manila this afternoon by cruiser.

The following is an extract from letter dated 11th March, received by Mr. F. von der Pfordten from the Assistant Superintendent at the Manila Office:—

"As you must be aware, communication between Manila and Bolinao has been totally interrupted since the 7th inst. We are in total ignorance of what has passed at Bolinao since that date. One thing appears to be certain, and that is that an insurrection of most serious dimensions has broken out in the North of Luzon and that Bolinao is in the hands of the rebels. In case the cable should have been cut, or the Bolinao station occupied by the rebels, I take this opportunity of communicating to you briefly what has happened and what action has been taken by us in Manila.

"On the 7th inst. the line from Bolinao was announced to be interrupted from Lingayen. Some hours later the Lingayen office reported that the linemen who had been sent to repair the line had been prevented from working by groups of suspicious looking natives. A detachment of the Civil Guard then accompanied the linemen to the place of interruption, but were attacked and forced to retreat.

"On the 8th inst., we wired to Dagupan to send a launch to Bolinao in order to ascertain if the station and staff were safe, but no launch was available on that date.

"On the 9th, at daybreak, a launch left Dagupan for Bolinao, but returned on the 10th

reporting that no landing could be effected and that it had been fired on from the shore. The people on board, however, were able to give the somewhat reassuring intelligence that the Company's house did not appear to have been damaged.

"On the 10th Mr. Jones [the Superintendent] succeeded in chartering a special steamer at Manila, having made an ineffectual attempt to do so on the previous day, and leaving me in charge of the Manila station proceeded to Bolinao accompanied by Mr. Wright.

"They have taken with them a mirror installation in case of necessity. I have heard nothing of them since, but hope they will communicate to-morrow from Santa Cruz.

"Three men-of-war left for Bolinao yesterday and four thousand troops have been despatched northwards by railway.

"The lighthouse keeper and inspector of forests at Bolinao have arrived at Santa Cruz, about forty miles south, having made their escape in a small boat.

They report that a detachment of troops at Bolinao was surprised and massacred on the 7th inst., and that the town is in the hands of the insurgents. They are, however, unable to give any information of the Company's staff.

"Everything seems to be quiet at Manila, and it is impossible to divine the cause of this sudden *émeute* in the northern provinces."

THE "COMERCIO" ON THE REBELLION.

The *Comercio* of the 10th March publishes the following:—Our readers already know that at a court-martial held at San Fernando de la Pampanga there was condemned to death the head or leader of a movement which broke out in the middle of last month in Apalit, to which adherents were induced by religious fraud. The fanatical sect, who call themselves *Gabinistas*, having been opportunely discovered, the leader was summarily tried and was shot at Apalit the day before yesterday. The sect has ramifications and proselytes in the provinces of Pangasinan and Zambales, and its leaders were seized by our Authorities, who worked indefatigably for the preservation of order. The arrest of the leaders produced great agitation amongst their adherents, who, in their blind folly, attacked several places held by the civil guard and the military, and took possession of and occupied various undefended towns and villages where there were only one or two men on guard, confidence being entertained in the unalterable peace and tranquillity that have prevailed in the province of Pangasinan. These parties of *Gabinistas*, on occupying the towns and villages of Alaminos, Salasa, Sual, and San Isidro, cut the telegraph lines by which communication is maintained with Bolinao and, in conjunction with the cable from that place, with Asia and Europe. The Governor-General, after a long conference with General Monet, in command of the central provinces of Luzon, who arrived at Manila yesterday, decided to send reinforcements to the large body of troops which was concentrated in the disturbed districts immediately the first information was received by telegram. These troops had already, according to advices received, inflicted upon the *Gabinistas* a loss of 197 killed, besides many wounded and taken prisoners. General Monet left at noon to-day for the provinces with orders from the Governor-General and full powers to establish summary courts and adopt whatever measures may be necessary to put down this imbecile movement originating in a province which during the recent rebellion remained quiet and gave strong proof of loyalty and patriotism.

A mixed battalion was recently formed, representative of the various sections of the army in the Philippines, which was to proceed to Spain to receive the honours it was desired to confer upon the army for its services in the suppression of the recent rebellion. This battalion left with General Monet for the scene of the present disturbances, the Governor-General desiring that it should carry with it to Spain the additional glory of co-operating in their suppression.

A Madrid telegram in the *Comercio* states that Lieut.-General Basilio Augustin y Davila has been appointed Governor-General of the Philippines and will leave Barcelona to take up his appointment on the 12th March, by the steamer *Isla de Panay*.

AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

Señor de Uriarte, Consul-General for Spain at Shanghai, communicated the official telegram to the local papers:—

Manila, 13th March, 11.30 p.m.

Disturbance in the North of Luzon, district of Bolinao, entirely local, no importance; caused by Hill Indians rescuing criminals, while being conveyed to prison and assisted by Actas Indians cutting wires. Already severely punished by force sent, and order is established. The rest of the Archipelago is entirely quiet.

MURDER OF A CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZEN NEAR MACAO.

CLAIM FOR AN INDEMNITY.

A Chinese American citizen named Wong was brutally murdered in the Sun Wei district on the 10th February. Wong was the son of an American citizen and was born in the United States twenty years ago, and some time back he came to Hongkong to complete his English Education, preparatory to joining in his father's business. A few months ago he went to his Chinese home at Tai Hing Po, in the Sun Wei district, which is about eighty miles from Macao and a hundred miles from Canton. On the 10th February he left his house at ten o'clock in the morning for the purpose of going to a market place about two miles away, and in doing so had to pass a palm tree grove. Before leaving the house his elder brother gave him \$4 to defray expenses. He was expected to return at five o'clock in the afternoon, but when the time came for retiring he had not put in an appearance, and his elder brother arranged with neighbours to send out a search party. The party returned about five hours afterwards and reported that they could find no trace of the missing young man. Early the following day the elder brother was talking with his neighbours as to the steps he should take when three or four strangers came up and one of them said, "You are talking about a man who has been killed. We heard that a body was seen in a palm tree grove about a mile from here; perhaps that is the person you are looking for." The strangers then went away. The brother was so much upset that it did not occur to him to stop any of the men. However, he and some friends immediately proceeded to the grove, and there they found the body of the missing man. The body was fearfully gashed about, no fewer than nineteen wounds being on it. The hands, arms, and head were terribly cut, and the throat was so deeply cut as to almost sever the head from the body. It is probable that he was so shockingly hacked because he fought his assailants. The body was conveyed to the nearest Magistracy and there the Magistrate was requested to come out and inspect the body and give permission for burial. He did what was requested and then told the deceased's brother to wait ten days while enquiries were made. At the end of ten days the Magistrate posted a notice outside his yamen stating that the deceased had been murdered by some person or persons unknown. The brother asked for an official copy of this document, but the Magistrate told him to copy it himself. After the burial the brother proceeded to Canton and reported the matter to Dr. Bedloe, the American Consul. The Consul vigorously took up the matter and has referred it to his Minister at Peking for instructions as to what indemnity shall be demanded. In the meantime the Consul is endeavouring to obtain from the Viceroy a copy of the Magistrate's declaration, so that the brother might hand it to his parents on his return to the United States.

There are some thousands of what are known as Chinese American citizens in the province of Kwangtung and Kwangsi having the full rights of American citizens and they are, it is said, regarded by the natives as good subjects for plunder, being generally wealthy, and it is hoped that some severe penalty will be imposed which will not only compensate the young man's family but also act as a punishment to evil-doers in these particular provinces. What is wanted is an effective police system for the protection of life and property.

In consequence of persistent rain the Manila Races, which were to have been held on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th inst., were postponed or a week.

THE DEATH OF MR. H. COOK.

INQUEST.

On Monday Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Magistrate) opened the inquest on the body of Mr. Harry Cook, late secretary and manager of the New Club, who was found dead in bed on the 9th inst.

Mr. Hart Buck, of the firm of Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Co., said—The deceased was secretary and manager of the New Club. He had been employed in that capacity since the 1st October, 1897. Prior to that he had been manager of the Mount Austin Hotel for a year. I last saw him alive on the evening of the 8th inst. at 7.45 in the New Club. About 1.30 p.m. on the 9th inst., in consequence of what the No. 1 boy told me, I went up to the deceased's room. I knocked at the door, but I got no answer and I went into the room. The deceased was lying on his back on the bed, and his feet were almost touching the ground. He was wearing his pyjamas, a singlet, and a pair of black socks. Mr. Henry Humphreys was with me. We sent for Dr. Jordan, who came while we were in the room. We looked round and found no signs of anything having fallen from the deceased's hands. We sent for the police, and Inspector Gillies took charge of the room. Deceased gave so much satisfaction whilst he was at the hotel that we gave him a bonus of \$500 when the place was closed. Up to the time he joined the New Club he was of abstemious habits. Latterly he did not look as if he took care of himself, and he had not given satisfaction because he was very rarely at the Club. At 7.30 p.m. on the 8th inst. I saw the deceased in the office of the Club. That was my usual time for seeing him about Club matters. I did not find him distressed. He was in fairly good spirits but puffy under the eyes. As I am about leaving for Australia I had instructed him to prepare a statement of accounts of the club so that I could tell how matters stood. He had told the bookkeeper to prepare the statement, and the bookkeeper told me it was not ready. There was no altercation. I did not give the deceased notice to leave. I did not tell him that I considered he had neglected his duties for some considerable time. His salary was \$150 a month with board and lodging. He was not, to my knowledge, a married man. I have been told he has been spending money freely of late. The morning paper was in the bedroom and apparently had been read. There was one glass, which had contained brandy, on the washstand. The defendant was not in trouble with me. I do not know if he was in any monetary trouble. I cannot give any reason why he should have taken poison.

Tong Shan, servant boy in the New Club, said—The deceased did not sleep at the club on the night of the 8th inst. He arrived there at 6.30 on the morning of the 9th. He did not dine at the club on the night of the 8th. He rarely slept at the club. An hour after he got to the club on the 9th I served him with a glass of brandy. He was then in bed. There was a fire in the room. At 8.30 he rang and asked me for another glass of brandy. At 9 o'clock I went into his room and found him asleep on the bed and covered with the bed clothes. I did not go up to the room again until 1.30 when a letter came for him from No. 44, Lyndhurst Terrace. When I went into the room I found the deceased dead and I returned the letter. He was lying across the bed on his back and his legs were hanging over the side almost touching the ground. I told the No. 1 boy, who informed Mr. Buck, I left both glasses I took up on the wash-stand. I have previously served the deceased with brandy in the morning. On one occasion he had three glasses of brandy. I have never seen him drunk.

At this point the inquiry was adjourned.

On Tuesday morning Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Magistrate) resumed the inquest.

Mr. Hart Buck, recalled, said—When I saw the deceased in the office on the 8th inst. I knew the statement of accounts would not be ready. I have not yet seen the statement. I cannot say for certain whether the deceased's accounts are in order until I see them. I believe they are in order. I do not know why he should have taken poison except that he had

not led a steady life. He had not drawn his salary from me for February. I found afterwards he had slightly overdrawn from the safe and had put in an I.O.U. for the amount, which showed that he was not embezzling money. The I. O. U.'s amounted to \$400.

The Magistrate—You don't call that much? He had overdrawn to the extent of \$250.

Witness—Of course he had the handling of a good deal of money. He could have taken a great deal of money from the safe if he had wished. The I.O.U.'s were not dated. I believe his accounts were correct up to the end of December. My own opinion is that this money was drawn very lately. The cheque for his salary had been made out, but he had not asked me to sign it. I cannot say if the money in the safe is correct until I see the accounts. He would not have made out the I.O.U.'s unless he had taken the exact amount. I have no reason at all to doubt his honesty. The accounts up to the end of December were examined during last month and I was told they were correct. If they had been incorrect I, as Chairman, would have been told so. I am going away to-morrow and Mr. Henry Humphreys will have the accounts to see that they are correct.

Ethel Halliday, of 44, Lyndhurst Terrace, said—I knew the deceased. He spent the night at my house on the 8th inst. Recently he had spent many nights at my house. I have known the deceased since last October. I sent a chit to him about one o'clock on the 9th inst. I do not know what time he left my house; I was not awake. He came to my house a little after nine o'clock on the night of the 8th inst. He was in his usual spirits. He had evidently been drinking, but not very much. He was a man who drank steadily, but I have never seen him drunk. I had not been pressing him for money lately. The 8th March was my birthday and I received \$100 from him as a present. The four letters produced are mine. Deceased had not been unhappy or depressed and had not told me that he was in any trouble. He did not appear to have any delusion. I know that he occasionally took strychnine to steady his nerves after drinking. On one occasion he went from my house to Watson's Dispensary for some drops to steady his nerves. That was since the 27th January.

Dr. Jordan said—About 2 p.m. on the 9th inst. I was summoned to the New Club. I entered the deceased's bedroom on the top floor and found him lying across the bed with his legs hanging over and touching the floor. He was outside the bedclothes and dressed in his pyjama suit. He was dead and post mortem rigidity was just setting in with well marked lividity. The pupils were somewhat dilated. There was no evidence of vomiting. I then advised Mr. Buck to inform the Police as I was unable to certify the cause of death. I should say deceased had been dead at least two hours. There was no tumbler near him, but on the washstand there was a tumbler containing a small quantity of liquid which smelt like brandy. The face was perfectly calm. If an irritant poison had been the cause of death probably the face would not have been calm. The appearances were quite compatible with heart disease. I had never attended the deceased, and had only seen him once at the Mount Austin Hotel. There was also an empty 6 oz. medicine bottle on the washstand.

Detective-Sergeant Gidley said—About 3 p.m. on the 9th inst. I went to the New Club and entered the deceased's bedroom, where I saw the body of the deceased. Mr. Hart Buck, Dr. Jordan, Mr. Graham, Mr. Jupp, and Tong Sang were in the room. Dr. Jordan told me that he did not know of any suspicious circumstances attending the death. I removed the body to the mortuary and locked the bedroom door and took charge of the key. On the following day Inspector Ford and I went to the room and found five bottles and a box of powder, which I handed to Mr. Browne, the Government analyst. I did not take charge of the tumbler on the washstand. Two of the bottles were empty scent bottles, two others contained some liquid, and the fifth was labelled "cough mixture."

The inquest was then adjourned until such time as the analyst is prepared with his report.

AN AGGRIEVED HUSBAND'S REVENGE.

A jealous husband attempted to murder his wife in a house at No. 2, Tung Man Lane, on Wednesday night. He had suspicions that she was unfaithful, and on going to his bedroom at seven o'clock he saw convincing proof of the fact. The lover bolted through the skylight on to the roof and the angry husband picked up a knife, stabbed his wife on the head and also cut her hand, and then followed the lover through the skylight, leaving the guilty wife on the bed bleeding severely. The pursuit was quickly cut short, as the infuriated husband in his haste to capture his rival rolled off the roof and fell plump on the top of a young postman who was passing down the lane. But for the postman being in the way the husband would have been killed, as the pavement was made of granite blocks. The poor postman suffered more bodily injury than the husband and they were both despatched to the hospital by the police. The woman's wounds were temporarily dressed and she was also sent to the hospital, and the trio are now detained there. Detective Inspector Hanson is enquiring into the matter, but as yet the lover has not deemed it prudent to show himself, although it is only as a witness that he is wanted.

REVIEWS.

A History of China, from the Earliest Days down to the Present. By Rev. J. Macgowan, London Missionary Society. Shanghai: Printed by the Presbyterian Mission Press. 1897. (Hongkong: W. Brewer & Co.)

MR. MACGOWAN'S work deserves a hearty welcome from all who are interested in the history of China. The method he has adopted in its compilation is explained in the preface. The volume professes to give the history of China in a form that is new to the English reader. It is not a compilation gathered from all kinds of sources, but a reproduction, from the original, of the Standard History of China. That the native history is on the whole a reliable one, Mr. Macgowan says, we have no reason to doubt, especially when we consider the system that was adopted to protect the writers of it, so that they might tell the most unpleasant truths without any fear of risk to themselves. Ever since the Han dynasty (B.C. 206-A.D. 25) historians have been appointed to write the history of their times, and no one but themselves has been allowed to look upon what has been recorded. There have been times when a ruler has attempted to coerce them to reveal what they have written about himself, but they have been willing to suffer death rather than betray the trust committed to them. The consequence has been that the writers have been able to write impartially when they were compelled to write some story to the discredit of an Emperor, or of some powerful statesman, or that reflected dishonour upon the nation. As each document was written it was deposited in an iron chest, which remained locked until the dynasty had ceased to rule. The box was then opened by command of some sovereign of the next, when all the documents it contained were handed over to the royal historians, who proceeded from them to write the history of the dynasty that had passed away. The story of the Manchu dynasty, being still concealed within the recesses of the historical chest, has not been available in the preparation of this history, and other sources of information have had to be relied upon.

This iron chest, a veritable *memento mori* to each succeeding dynasty, is one of those singular institutions of the Chinese Empire that show the contradictory and well-nigh incomprehensible characteristics of the race. In other countries of monarchical institutions it is always assumed that the reigning dynasty is securely fixed, and even where it is felt that their rule is shaky no official admission to that effect is made. Theoretically a dynasty is regarded as destined to continue for ever, or, should it expire for want of issue, to be peacefully succeeded by a collateral family. But in China it would seem to be officially recognised and taken as a matter of course that a time must come when each succeeding dynasty will be forcibly overthrown. And this in the most

conservative country of the world! The present dynasty has already had a longer tenure than the majority of its predecessors, and the young Emperor Kwang Su must have misgivings that the time is approaching when the famous iron chest containing the records of his dynasty will be opened and its contents made public, not a pleasant subject of contemplation for a monarch whose reign falls in the period of decadence and disgrace. The recent historical records of China, if written with that honesty which Mr. Macgowan claims for them, must be mainly records of humiliation and defeat. The suppression of the Taiping and Mahomedan Rebellions and the reconquest of Kaskaria will no doubt be set down as heroic achievements, but these were domestic affairs and will not avail to blot out the humiliation and loss of territory to which the Empire has been subjected in its dealings with foreign Powers by reason of the ignorant self-conceit and arrogance of its rulers.

Mr. Macgowan says he "has not attempted to give a literal translation of the Chinese history, his aim being rather to produce as faithfully as possible the very thoughts and images of the Chinese historians. Those portions of it that would have no interest for the English reader have been omitted." The work of condensation might, we think, have been carried a little further with advantage. In the earlier portion we are presented with material from which history, in the popular sense, should be written, rather than with the finished history itself. Names, dates, and events are set down in arid sequence, but their bearing on the life of the people the reader is left for the most part to search out for himself. But the official historical records of China are, as Mr. Macgowan says, concerned mostly about wars and conquests and court intrigues. Hence as a complete history of the nation they are unsatisfying, and require to be supplemented from other sources. The most interesting section of the book before us is naturally the last one, dealing with the period of the Tsing dynasty, which is brought up to the close of the war with Japan and the conquest of Formosa. The author has not allowed himself to be biased by his clerical calling, even upon such a controversial matter as the opium question, which he treats with judicial impartiality. While it may be inferred that Mr. Macgowan personally disapproves of the opium traffic, in his review of the events leading up to the first war he says:—"Unfortunately the Imperial Government at Peking had not taken a decided position on the question. The statesmen there were divided into two parties. One was for legalising the drug, and the other was for total exclusion from the country. It is a fact worthy of note that neither of these looked at the subject from a moral point of view." Elsewhere he says:—"Although the war was unquestionably the result of the refusal of the Chinese officials to recognise the English as anything but tributary to their Emperors, there is no doubt but that the mandarins who were present at the signing of the treaty all believed that the real cause of it was the opium traffic." The opium traffic was undoubtedly the proximate cause of the war, but the real cause was, as Mr. Macgowan says, the refusal of the Chinese to recognise the English as anything but a tributary nation. It is only people who are incapable of looking beneath the surface that can be content to accept the title of "the opium war" as correctly describing our first conflict with China. Mr. Macgowan is equally sound on the audience question. Referring to the first reception of the foreign ambassadors by the Emperor Kwang Su he says:—"It is inconceivable to all students of Chinese history why England should have allowed herself to be insulted by the Chinese in their demanding that her representative should appear in a building which had been specially reserved for the reception of men that were bringing tribute to the Chinese Emperor as their over-load." England's unfortunate attitude on this question had much to do with the loss of prestige from which she suffered for so long, and on the other hand the more dignified attitude taken up by France and Russia materially assisted in promoting the influence of those Powers.

In a footnote on page 595, in explanation of the causes that led up to the

recent war between China and Japan, there is a curious error. It is there stated that the events of 1884 in Seoul incensed the people of Japan beyond measure; that they loudly cried for war, and that the Mikado's deciding for peace "led to the Satsuma Rebellion." The Satsuma Rebellion occurred in 1877, that is, seven years before the events which Mr. Macgowan says led up to it. The mistake has evidently arisen from an error in making or copying notes. The Rebellion in question was in part due to the moderation of the Mikado's policy in reference to Korea, but the particular events to which that policy applied were long anterior to those mentioned by Mr. Macgowan. This is the only error of importance we have noticed, and we can cordially recommend Mr. Macgowan's history both as a work of reference and, as regards the latter portion of it, interesting and instructive narrative of modern events in China. There is no obtrusion of the missionary question, in fact it seems to have been rather unduly kept in the background, and in the index we do not find even the word "missionary." It is only in the concluding lines that there is any special reference to the evangelisation of China, and it occurs there in a connection that will command respect, if not universal assent. We quote the whole paragraph:—

"Our history is now finished. We began in the gloom and mist of those remote and ancient times where myth and legend struggled with each other, and where the light of authentic history had not yet penetrated. By and by we saw the historic figures that fill so large a space in the Chinese annals, come forth and take their place in the story of this people, and then kings, and queens, and princes, and statesmen and famous generals, some whose names shall shine with perpetual honour, and others that shall have everlasting infamy heaped upon them to the end of time. We have told the story of how the nation has grown from a small beginning to be a mighty empire, and how through the indomitable energy and perseverance of its people it has not only conquered and subdued the tribes and peoples that lay along its borders, but also absorbed its conquerors and turned them into Chinamen and made their country an integral part of China. The Chinese are an imperial race, and can hold their own physically in the face of any other in the world. They have, however, failed to fulfil the destiny that their great powers pointed out as belonging to them. They are proud and haughty and contemptuous of all other nationalities. The educated and uneducated alike are the slaves of the grossest superstitions, that not only affect them in their every-day life, but have also been the means of retarding the national prosperity by closing as if with the hand of fate the mineral wealth of the country. Education, in the proper sense of the term, does not, and has never existed in China, and the people of every class, from the highest to the lowest, are as immoral and corrupt as the pages of this history show they were two thousand years ago. If there is one thing taught more plainly than another in this story of China it is that no nation that has not a knowledge and reverence for God can ever become truly great, and that without morality, though it may be powerful and extensive, its life will be honey-combed and sapped by vices and failings that shall eat into the national prosperity and cause it to fail in all the great purposes for which it exists as a nation. The time of China's purification and regeneration will come when Christianity shall become the dominant force in its life as idolatry has been in the past."

Under the Dragon Flag. My Experiences in the Chino-Japanese War. By JAMES ALLAN. London: William Heinemann. 1898.

THIS book purports to be a record of the writer's personal experiences during the memorable war between China and Japan. The writer has, however, drawn largely on his imagination for his "experiences," a great part of the book being pure fiction. The writer no doubt saw a good deal of the war and so is able to give an air of reality to what he writes, but to present such fiction to the world as sober history is a transaction that does not square with morality.

A Handbook of Colloquial Japanese. By BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN, Emeritus Professor of Japanese and Philology in the Imperial University of Tokyo. Third Edition. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Limited. Tokyo: The Shueisha. Yokohama, Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore: Kelly & Walsh, Limited. 1898.

THE fact that a third edition of Professor Chamberlain's handbook has been called for is the best testimonial to its value as an aid to the acquisition of the Japanese language. It is divided into two parts, the theoretical part, or grammar, and the practical part, or reader, and the arrangement of both appears excellent.

THE POLICE REPORT FOR 1897.

The annual report of the Hon. F. H. May Captain Superintendent of Police, is published in last Saturday's *Gazette*, from which we take the following particulars:—

CRIME.

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 9,629, being a decrease as compared with 1896 of 3,346, or 25.78 per cent. In the division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears an increase as compared with 1896 of 582 cases, or 25.15 per cent., in the former, and a decrease of 3,928 cases, or 36.84 per cent., in the latter. The year 1896 cannot be regarded as a normal one, for the existence of plague here diminished the population, and the constant visitations of the house-to-house search parties, and the cleansing operations in the houses carried out by the Sanitary Board, tended to prevent crime. Comparing the returns for 1897 with those for 1895, which was a normal year, it will be seen that there are only 129 more reports of serious cases in the latter year than in the former. Such an increase may well be accounted for by increase in population alone.

GAMBLING.

The following is the reference to the gambling scandal:—"Since the breaking up of the Wa Lane and Cheung Hing Street establishments in June last there has been little gambling. On the list of recipients of bribes from the Wa Lane gambling house seized at No. 3, East Street, were found the names or numbers of 14 European Police Officers (one Chief Inspector Acting as Deputy Superintendent of Police, 6 Inspectors, one Acting Inspector, 4 Sergeants, and 2 Acting Sergeants), 38 Indian Sergeants and Constables, and 76 Chinese Sergeant Interpreters, Sergeants, and Constables. One European Inspector was convicted of receiving bribes and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour. Three Inspectors and one Sergeant were dismissed. Two Inspectors and two Sergeants (one was Acting Inspector when the list was discovered) have been called upon to resign. Two Sergeants and one Acting Sergeant were not re-engaged on the expiration of their terms of 5 years' service. One Acting Sergeant resigned. The Inspector who was Acting as Deputy Superintendent had already retired from the Force when the list was discovered. Nineteen of the Indian Police were dismissed and one was not allowed to re-engage. Seventeen still remain in the Force. Twenty-six of the Chinese Police were dismissed and eighteen resigned. Thirty-two still remain in the Force. There are thus 49 Asiatic Policemen still serving whose names were on the list."

PROSTITUTION.

Concerning prostitution Mr. May says:—"Complaints have continued to be made of the indiscriminate opening of brothels in respectable quarters of the City. Some houses in Wyndham Street were successfully proceeded against under Ordinance 6 of 1894 on the complaint of European householders in the street. But I have failed to induce any Chinese householders to have recourse to the legal remedy for what is becoming an intolerable nuisance."

LICENSING OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Under the head of "Licences" the following paragraph appears:—"I have again during last year advocated the licensing of domestic servants. Several families were boycotted by their chair coolies during the year, because the coolies objected to do a reasonable day's work. Coolies who are dismissed for misconduct or dishonesty find re-employment as readily as do well-conducted and honest men. Under a system of

licensing and registration such would be impossible."

CONDUCT OF THE FORCE.

Leaving out of account the Wa Lane Bribery Scandal, the conduct of the Force, Mr. May states, has on the whole been good. It is satisfactory to note that among the Water Police there was no case of extortion or the like. This Mr. May attributes to the effect of the improvement in the status of the Contingent made by the increase of pay given and increased security required during the year.

BARRACKS.

The following appears under this heading:—"During the year I have recommended certain additions and alterations in the Police Stations at the Peak and Hungtom, for which provision has been made in the Estimates for the current year. A sum has also been inserted with which to make a beginning of the building of a new station at West Point, which is urgently required. An entirely new Station is also required at East Point, and No. 5 Police Station (the Central Fire Station) requires very large additions and improvements, which, I trust, will soon be taken in hand. The three last named Stations are in their present condition by no means a credit to the colony, and must be injurious to the health of the men stationed in them."

ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held on 11th March at the Alice Memorial Hospital. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided, and there were also present—Dr. R. M. Gibson (Hon. Secretary), Mr. A. Ross (Hon. Treasurer), Rev. T. W. Pearce, Dr. J. C. Thomson, Mr. A. McKenzie, and Mr. Wong Shing.

Dr. Thomson introduced his successor, Dr. Gibson, and said he was sure Dr. Gibson would efficiently and satisfactorily carry on the work, and that a bright prosperity was in store for the hospitals.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, extended a most hearty welcome to Dr. Gibson and added that the Committee very much regretted losing Dr. Thomson's services. Those services were well known and highly appreciated, but he was sure that although Dr. Thomson was severing his connection with the institutions as far as the secretarial duties were concerned he would help them with the benefit of his advice on all occasions.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, Dr. Thomson reported that all the gentlemen appointed on the Committee had consented to act with the exception of Mr. G. C. C. Master, who wrote stating that he had no time to devote to the work. Dr. Thomson further reported that a meeting of the Chinese members of the Finance Committee was held in the Registrar-General's office on the 1st October last under the chairmanship of Mr. Lockhart, with Dr. Thomson as hon. secretary. Messrs. Ho Tung and Ho Fook were appointed to organize a party of collecting shroffs. The work had been done very successfully and the Chinese donation list had increased. The thanks of the Committee were due to Mr. Ho Tung and Mr. Ho Fook and also to the other gentlemen who co-operated with them for the valuable work they had done on behalf of the hospitals (Applause).

Dr. Thomson then proposed the re-election of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart as Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Lockhart had been chairman for several years and by his influence had rendered a very great deal of help in the matter of collecting the donations, especially among the Chinese community. He was about to leave the colony for a few months, but the Committee would willingly grant him leave and no doubt they would also favourably consider any application for prolonged leave. (Laughter). Mr. Lockhart's name as chairman would continue to render them very substantial help, although he himself might not be present in the colony.

Rev. T. W. Pearce seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Lockhart returned thanks for the honour, which he accepted on the conditions named by Dr. Thomson. He thought it would

be better to have somebody in the saddle than have the saddle empty for some time, but he hoped his absence would have no ill effects on the welfare of the hospitals.

The report and balance sheet were taken as read.

Mr. Ross, in explaining the balance sheet, said the institutions were in a good financial position. The donations had increased by \$922 and the special donations by \$334.98 over those of last year. Extra expenses had been incurred during the year, and a balance of \$790.15 was carried forward exclusive of the Young bequest, which had been invested in safe land stocks.

The Chairman moved that Mr. A. McKenzie be appointed treasurer and said he very much regretted Mr. Ross was unable to continue his services as he was shortly going home. They were, however, fortunate in having secured Mr. McKenzie. They were losing one Highlander and they had got another, and he did not think they could go to a better part of the world to get a treasurer. He hoped Mr. McKenzie would prove a treasurer worthy of the good old Highland name he possessed.

Mr. Ross seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Chairman, in concluding the proceedings, alluded to the satisfactory position of the hospitals, the increase of the work, and the excellent services rendered by the two licentiates at the Nethersole Hospital. He hoped the subscriptions would continue to increase, particularly amongst the Chinese, because it had to be borne in mind that it was the Chinese who benefited by the excellent skill placed at their disposal in the hospitals. Having been connected with the institutions since they were founded he felt very proud of their success and trusted they would continue to flourish.

TWO LAND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

[COMMUNICATED.]

They were brought into existence nine years ago, one in poverty, the other in the lap of luxury, and it ends now in shares of the poor beggar standing at 85 per cent. premium, while shares in the Hongkong jewel, fought for at its birth at 140 per cent. premium, are now actually below their original cost. It was as clever a move as the Honourable Hongkong Statesman ever made, when he doubled the capital of his company at 100 per cent. premium and erected therefrom a reserve equal to half the paid up capital. If there was any "go" left in Hongkong, shareholders in the Hongkong Land Investment Co. would long since have transferred this reserve to capital account and had their scrip converted into paid up shares of \$75 each. The 9th annual reports of the two companies are poorly constructed affairs, not, I think, because directors have anything to conceal, but merely because they would perhaps not know how to justify the fees they draw unless they made a mystery of something. Hongkong smoothes its borrowing under the head of "Accounts Payable" and Shanghai gives the balance only of its "Interest Account" leaving people in the dark as to what they pay and what they receive. I want the amount of the Hongkong Co.'s borrowings. I write to the Secretary and he replies \$875,000. I wish to know what interest the Shanghai Co. received on its mortgages and the agents informed me Tls. 42,088. So there is no wish to deprive shareholders of information, only indisposition to afford it. Stripped of their garbage the accounts of the two Co.'s stand thus, the Shanghai Co. being converted into dollars for comparison,

	Shanghai	Hongkong
Capital	1,728,733	3,750,000
Reserve	266,666	
Loans	1,333,333	875,000
Accounts Payable	68,804	26,434
Final Dividend	112,666	100,000
Balance 1896	2,812	56,559
do. 1897	3,341	1,297
	3,516,355	4,809,290
Properties	2,786,738	2,778,085
Mortgages	685,333	1,989,788
Cash & Debtors	44,284	41,417
	3,516,355	4,809,290

	Shanghai	Hongkong
Rents...	183,243	86,992
Interest ...	56,180	148,796
Profit on sales etc.	17,672	14,613
Commissions ...	480	9,146
Transfer fees ...	149	227
	257,674	259,774
Dividend ...	172,666	200,000
Interest ...	77,400	47,977
Directors, etc.	4,267	10,500
Balance ...	3,341	1,297
	257,674	259,774

The Shanghai Co. borrows money at 5.6 per cent. and invests it on mortgage at 8.2 per cent. and in property at 6.6 per cent., while the Hongkong Co. borrows money at 5.5 per cent. and invests it on mortgage at 7.5 per cent., the properties in which their capital is invested bringing in only 3.1 per cent., and yet there was a speaker at the last meeting who suggested they should clear out of mortgages which bring in 7.5 per cent. and put the money into property which brings in only 3.1 per cent. One bad feature in both companies is that last year neither earned the money they paid away in dividends; they had to consume, the Shanghai Co. \$14,331 and the Hongkong Co. \$13,316, from profit on sales of property to make up the amounts required for dividend, and it is not a bright look out if they have to depend upon such a source of income to maintain future dividends. The Shanghai Co. made, last year, 9 per cent. and paid 10 per cent. on present capital, and the chairman at the meeting said 11 per cent. was in sight for 1898, but I do not see where it is to come from unless they appropriate profits from sales of land. They may have \$176,000 of earnings and \$6,000 of balances brought forward, but \$182,000 would give only 10½ per cent. on the capital. The Hongkong Co. paid, last year, 5.3 per cent. and made only 5 per cent., but should pay more for this year as they carry forward a big undivided balance. Taking shares at their present values, Shanghai Lands Tls. 92½ and Hongkong Lands \$73, dividends make them both about the same value as an investment, a 5.4 or 5.5 per cent. stock, and people should be able to do better than that with their money. There seems brighter promise for Hongkong Lands, if only the Company was decently managed, than there is for Shanghai Lands, which, for the time being at least, have seen their best, as shareholders cannot, or rather should not, expect the Company every year to make profits from the turnover of land. What both Companies want is additional capital. The Shanghai Co. has debentures running at 6, 5½, and 5 per cent. interest. It has a reserve of Tls 200,000, mainly created from premiums on new issues. Its shares are Tls 50 each and it seems to have a funny number, 25,931, to produce its capital of Tls 1,296,550. It should increase to 50,000 shares by issuing 24,069 new ones at Tls 75, which would bring in Tls 60,172.50 premium, and this, with the reserve of Tls 200,000, would allow of the shares being allotted at Tls 65 each. The reserve fund would disappear, and very properly, because it has been created by shareholders and it should revert to them by being capitalized. The 24,069 new shares at Tls 65 would bring in Tls 1,564,445, with which they could redeem the 6 per cent. debentures and have Tls 800,000 in hand to invest on mortgage. The Hongkong Co. should capitalize its reserve and call up the outstanding \$25 per share, which would produce \$1,250,000. With it they could pay off their debt of \$875,000 and have \$375,000 in hand to invest on mortgage, or, as the rate, 5½ per cent. at which they borrow money, is not onerous, they could retain the whole, bring it to Shanghai, and compete against the Shanghai Co. for 8.2 per cent. mortgages. Until the reserve is capitalized shareholders in the Hongkong Co. are always liable to be shot at and have their dividends crippled by the managing Directors. I have not a copy of the Articles of Association, but, so far as memory serves, the managing Directors can claim commission of 5 per cent. on profits when the dividend exceeds 7½ per cent. I suppose they have really been entitled to that commission for a number of years past, as they might say, and possibly do say, they pay dividends of 8 per cent., though it is actually

only 5½ per cent. on the paid value of a share. However, some one might look up the Articles of Association and see how the clause actually runs.

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in the National Bank of China, Limited, was held on Saturday last in the Head Office of the Company. Mr. D. Gillies presided and there were also present:—Messrs. J. T. Laute, Chow Tung Shang, Chan Kit Sang, and Hoi Chuen (Directors), V. H. Deacon (Solicitor), A. Finke, E. Bischoff, W. G. Winterburn, E. Terry, E. S. Kelly, G. H. Potts, A. Moir, Van Neirp, J. H. Cox, Fung Wa Chuen, G. W. F. Playfair (Manager), etc., etc.

The MANAGER read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, as you will have seen from the report (which, with your permission, we will take as read, together with the accompanying accounts) we are not in a position to give you a dividend on this occasion. As you are no doubt aware, there has been great tightness of money during the past half-year, and it says a great deal for traders and financial institutions that such continued tightness was tided over without disaster. To some institutions the period of tightness was a period of extra profit, but for us, unfortunately, it has not been so; this, combined with violent fluctuations in exchange, which made operations extremely difficult, accounts for the unsatisfactory result of last year's working. Our funds are mostly employed in exchange operations, our advances being only a little over \$900,000. The item "Government securities belonging to the Bank" has since been reduced by nearly half. Provision has been duly made in the past year's account for bad debts. Perhaps it is as well to mention here, as we see we have omitted to state it in the balance sheet, that the total capital is represented by 40,453 shares. The greatest economy will be exercised in future in order to save expenses, which are rather heavy compared to the capital in hand. We would remind you that in our report for 30th June, 1893, we stated as follows:—"Your Directors have forfeited certain shares on which calls have not been paid (including those belonging to Russell & Co.), and the amount paid thereon and now forfeited is all held in a special suspense account to be dealt with as they may see fit." Such amounts we subsequently utilized (as stated in our report) to wipe out bad debts, principally incurred here at the starting of the Bank and in Yokohama and Shanghai. Several London shareholders, however, having suggested that such appropriations should be mentioned at the general meeting, we now do so. Eminent professional advisors in London recommend the scheme set before you in the report, i.e., that the balance at credit of the forfeited shares account, together with the balance at credit of reserve fund, in all \$109,496.64, should be amalgamated in a new account called capital reserve fund, and such fund will be brought up to \$175,500 out of future earnings. Before proposing that the report and accounts be adopted I would simply state that the Bank is in a perfectly sound condition. I shall be very glad to answer any questions that may be put to me by shareholders.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. SI FUNG CHANG seconded.

Carried.

Mr. WO YIT TANG proposed that Mr. Gillies and Mr. Chow Tung Shang be elected to the Head Office Board of Directors, and that the Right Hon. C. B. Stuart Wortley, Q.C., M.P., be elected to the London Committee.

Mr. NG CHIT ME seconded.

Carried.

Mr. WAI KI SANG proposed that Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Potts be elected auditors for the Head Office, and Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffith and Co. to the London office.

Mr. CHONG WAI HING seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this is about all the business we have to put before you, and

I assure you it is with deep regret that the Directors and the Chief Manager appear before you on this occasion unable to pay such dividends as we have paid in former years, even little as they were. However, we hope that in the future we will be able to do a little better, and that when we meet next year we shall have a more substantial and creditable report to submit to you. There is only one little matter that I would like to bring to your notice, and that is in regard to the members of the Board. I might mention that it is not my intention to ask you to nominate or elect any additional members to the Board, but merely to ascertain the opinion of shareholders as to whether it would be advisable or not to strengthen the Board by the addition of another European member. At present we have three Chinese members on the Board, and two Europeans, and I think it would strengthen our hands very much indeed if we had the advice and assistance of another European. However, that is a matter that will be left for you to decide, and I shall be very glad if you will show your approval of it at this meeting.

Mr. WINTERBURN—Is there another \$2,000 salary with a further addition to the Board?

The CHAIRMAN—In reply to Mr. Winterburn's question, I may state the Articles of Association provide for a remuneration for each of the Directors of \$2,000. However, as the business of the Bank has not been very prosperous lately, the Directors will be willing to divide the amount of \$5,000 amongst six instead of amongst five, so that the addition of another member to the Board would not in any way increase the working expenses of the Bank.

Mr. CHUN HING—The Bank has been started for several years, and you have been having five Directors for some time. I suggest that the same number of Directors be retained without any addition.

The CHAIRMAN—I would like to have an expression of opinion. The increase in the number of Directors has been opposed by Mr. Chun Hing. Still, although I would be very glad to accept what has been stated by Mr. Chun Hing, I think we ought to go a little further and get the opinion of the gentlemen who are present. Of course, there is no necessity for making it a motion, and seconding it. All that I want is merely an expression of opinion, so I will put Mr. Chun Hing's proposal that no increase be made in the number of members of the Hongkong Board.

Eighteen voted for the motion, and seven against it. The motion was therefore carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very sorry that for the present the number of members on the Hongkong Board will have to remain as before.

Mr. Cox thought the Chinese did not quite understand.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN, who interpreted the remarks during the meeting, said they quite understood.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the shareholders for their attendance.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The first ordinary general meeting of the newly formed Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held in the Company's Offices on Monday, at noon. Mr. D. Gillies presided, and there were also present—Messrs. E. Burnie, W. R. Loxley (Directors), J. B. Duncan (Secretary), T. Howard, G. Murray Bain, H. Wicking, M. B. Polishwalla, J. M. E. Machado, E. W. Terry, D. W. Craddock, Mahomed, S. B. Bhabha, Yap Ching Ho, and F. E. Ellis.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, as notified by the Secretary, this meeting has been called in accordance with the Companies Ordinance No. 1, of 1887. There is no business to be done at this meeting, but while you are here I may as well state for your information that the last letters received from the mine continue to give very satisfactory accounts of the progress made on the lode. Mr. Philipps, the manager, is now of opinion that the main chute of ore will be found to be a continuation of the north and south lode. That was his opinion on the 21st February. If this is the case, it should be a very satisfac-

tory matter for the shareholders, as we will then be right upon the lode without very much prospecting to do, and I hope in the course of another two weeks we shall have the satisfactory information that ore is being got from the lode, and that the mill is working full time upon lode ore. As you are aware, for many months we have had to be satisfied with what we got from the headings. The headings are of very low grade, and the results have been rather poor. However, it is very fortunate for the Company to have these headings, because they have enabled us to pay our way, returning a little more than working expenses. I may also mention that the lease is now being prepared which will give us fifty square miles of land, running north and south in the direction of the lode, and that all the privileges on the land adjacent to the Company's property, such as water rights and the cutting of timber, will be secured to us by the lease. Thus I have shown that the Government is dealing very liberally with the Company, at all events we have nearly everything we asked for from them, and I think the concession they have given us with regard to water and timber rights is a matter that will be very much appreciated by the Company, and will be of great value to us. If we had been shut in and limited to the area of land which we had received on lease it might have put us to great disadvantage if we had had to make arrangements with the proprietors adjacent for the cutting of timber or right of way. All that has been secured to us, and will increase very much the value of our concession. I may also mention that Mr. Blamey has left the mine, and I believe he comes to Hongkong, and if he does so we will then be able to get any explanation he can give with regard to the Company. There is a letter here, received from Mr. Bailey, who is now in London trying to obtain money for the purpose of prospecting down at Punjom. So far, I believe, his efforts have not been successful, but I will read his last letter which may give us some explanation.

London, 4th February, 1898.

Dear Sirs:—I have laboured assiduously to secure capital to prospect, develop, and purchase your property under the terms of your proposal to me of 1st September, 1897, but, I regret to say, unsuccessfully.

The terms upon which it is offered, which I have submitted as you have given me, I cannot deal on.

I will say that the mining market both public and private, here and in the United States, is dull; there is no "boom" or "fever" whatever, and, while there is something doing all the time, both the property and terms offered must be very attractive to secure support.

Your property is sufficiently good, I am as well satisfied as ever, to secure the attention and aid of capital upon satisfactory terms.

The question is, can we agree on terms if you are still disposed to negotiate with or through me?

How much money and time may be required to determine positively the value of any of the mines is of course uncertain and speculative, and hence whoever puts in this speculative money I find demand larger interests than formerly, when money went into mining a good deal on excitement and when there were not so many mines seeking money as to-day.

I am satisfied a deal may be carried through if you will reduce the interest to be retained by you to 25 per cent. in the property, or perhaps 33½ per cent. and reduce the purchase price or increase time allowed for exploitation, or both.

If you are disposed to make a proposition on these lines sufficiently attractive to capital, I anticipate little difficulty in securing the necessary funds to operate your property on a proper scale and from the extent of its value as rapidly as possible.

Believing your property to be a good mining speculation for large capital and having now spent considerable time and money in endeavouring to handle it, I trust I may yet be able to get yourselves and capital to agree on terms to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

I expect to sail for America in a few days, but may return here soon. Will you be so kind as to advise me of your pleasure in duplicate to here and care of Palace Hotel, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

If you wish to feel you know me better, I beg to refer to the International Trust Co., Denver, Colo., U.S.A.

If I do not commence work on your property by March 1st, 1898,—which there is but the slightest possibility I will do—I will on or immediately after that date write you formally to that effect, thinking you may prefer to have such a letter for your records.—Very truly yours,
L. L. BAILEY.

The Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.

The CHAIRMAN (resuming)—Gentlemen, this letter is perhaps not altogether satisfactory, but seeing the improved prospects we have had at the mine, I do not think we need be very much downcast about it. I think our prospects are very much brighter than when we entered into negotiations with Mr. Bailey, and although perhaps the present is not the proper time to consider this letter of Mr. Bailey's, I may mention that so far as my own opinion goes I do not think it would be wise to offer the property on more advantageous terms. (Hear hear.) I think our property is worth all we ask for it, and I have every reason to believe that before another month is over we shall find ourselves very much stronger and in a much more prosperous position. This letter will, of course, be considered by the Board, and an answer sent to Mr. Bailey, but I think the opinion of the Board more or less coincides with my own, and that our answer will be on the lines I have just stated.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—Might I ask what was the date on which the understanding practically expires, or may expire, at the option of the Company, with Mr. Bailey? It appears to me that the bulk of the shareholders will agree with what you have stated that they would now—failing any possibility of Mr. Bailey succeeding in his project—just as soon work the mine themselves, as leave it to anybody else. It may be remembered that at the meeting when the agreement was sanctioned by the shareholders I especially called attention to the limitations and conditions in the event of Mr. Bailey failing, and these were that we were to resume at once, and lose no time.

The CHAIRMAN—The time fixed for Mr. Bailey to commence exploitation at the property was limited to the 1st March this year. That time has now expired, and probably by the next mail we shall receive a letter from Mr. Bailey withdrawing the offer, as he is not able to comply with the conditions entered into with the Company.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—That is to say, we are now in a position to say we are finished with him.

The CHAIRMAN—We are practically finished with him, and I do not think we need regret it, as our prospects are becoming very much better. We have now got sufficient money to develop the mine, and yet pay expenses, and with further development I believe we will have no difficulty in disposing of part or parcel of the property, if we wish to. The section, No. 15, of the agreement with Mr. Bailey, is as follows:—"If the prospecting operations on the Company's concession have not been started within six months from this date (1st Sept., 1897) this agreement can be determined and declared null and void by giving you, in writing, one calendar month's notice to that effect at your address at Palace Hotel, San Francisco, California, United States of America."

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—Notice has been given?

The CHAIRMAN—No, but it will be given immediately after the next Board meeting. Of course, the Board will have to meet and discuss this letter, and decide what future action shall be taken, but there is no doubt that the letter will be written immediately after the meeting.

There were no further questions and the CHAIRMAN thanked shareholders for their attendance.

A correspondent writes to the *Siam Free Press*:—"You alluded the other day to a case of iron pans having been received by a local firm instead of boots and shoes. But what do you say to a case of skates that was sent a few years ago to a Singapore firm on spec? And what was still more strange, the skates were actually sold at Singapore to a speculative Captain who took them to China and resold them at a good profit."

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary annual meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at 12.30 p.m., on Wednesday, the 23rd March:—

The general agents beg to submit to the shareholders their report on the Company's business with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

In consequence of the slack demand in the Spanish market the refinery was not working during four months of the year, and throughout the remaining eight months the margin on sales of refined sugars left only a small profit.

Inclusive of \$12,766.38 brought forward from the year 1896, the amount standing at credit of working account is \$36,900.31, which the general agents and Consulting Committee recommend should be appropriated as follows, viz.:—

To apply to reduction of property account...	\$10,000.00
Dividend of \$3 per share	21,000.00
Carry forward to next account	5,900.31
	<u>\$36,900.31</u>

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee consists of Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1898.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital account	700,000.00	
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	88,359.12	
Cash	1,597.48	
Sundry creditors	7,799.05	
Profit and loss account	36,900.31	
	<u>\$834,655.96</u>	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Property account	642,142.43	
Refined sugar	133,716.62	
Coal, charcoal, stores, mat bags, &c.	40,444.47	
Fire insurance	2,775.76	
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.	1,577.21	
Sundry debtors	13,999.47	
	<u>\$834,655.96</u>	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To interest	6,124.58	
To remuneration to Consulting Committee	1,500.00	
To General Agents' and Manila Agents' commission	6,852.51	
To auditor's fee	150.00	
To balance	36,900.31	
	<u>\$51,527.40</u>	

Cr.	\$	c.
By balance from last year	12,766.38	
By gain on working	38,222.52	
By gain on sale of steam-launch "Precursor"	505.26	
By exchange	33.24	
	<u>\$51,527.40</u>	

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twentieth Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Offices of the General Agents, at noon, on Wednesday, 23rd March:—

The General Agents beg to submit to the shareholders their report on the Company's business for the year 1897, with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

Inclusive of \$2,221.08 brought forward from the year 1896, the nett gain on working amounts to \$508,753.31, of which \$80,000 was paid as interim dividend on the 30th August last.

In view of the satisfactory results of the year's working and of the desirability of maintaining as far as possible uniform dividends, the General Agents and Consulting Committee recommend the formation of an Equilization of

Dividend Fund, and therefore propose the following appropriation of the profits, viz. —

Interim Dividend of \$4 per shares paid 30th August	\$ 80,000.00
To apply to reduction of property account	75,000.00
To apply to formation of Equilization of Dividend Fund	140,000.00
Final Dividend of \$10 per share making \$14 for the year	200,000.00
Carry forward to next account	13,753.31
	\$508,753.31

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee now consists of Hon. E. R. Bellios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, C. S. Sharp, David Gubbay and A. Haupt, who offer themselves for re-election: Mr. A. Haupt was invited to join the Board in place of Mr. St. C. Michaelsen, who resigned owing to his departure from the Colony.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thos. Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 10th March, 1898.

BALANCE SHEET—ONE YEAR—TO 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up capital		2,000,000.00	
Sundry creditors		1,757,921.01	
Balance of profit and loss account	\$508,753.31		
Less interim dividend at \$4 per share paid on 30th August, 1897	80,000.00		
		428,753.31	
		\$4,186,674.32	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account, consisting of—			
East Point Refinery			
Bowrington Refinery			
Swatow Refinery		1,606,493.81	
Hongkong Distillery			
Site at Soo-kun-poo			
Cash		364.78	
Raw and refined sugar, &c.		836,699.88	
Spirits and rum, &c.		7,587.69	
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.		300,662.98	
Sundry debtors		229,537.93	
Shipments		2,036,397.91	
Less advance	831,070.66		
		1,205,327.25	
		\$4,189,674.32	

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To balance at debit on 31st December, 1896	1,625,347.21		
Less written off last year	25,000.00		
		1,600,347.21	
To new machinery, &c.	6,146.60		
		\$1,606,493.81	
By balance at date		1,606,493.81	
		\$1,606,493.81	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To commissions		30,437.66	
To remuneration to Consulting Committee		2,500.00	
To auditors' fees		500.00	
To interest account		34,189.17	
		\$ 67,626.83	
To interim dividend at \$4 per share paid on 30th August, 1897		80,000.00	
		\$147,626.83	
To net balance		428,753.31	
		\$576,380.14	
Cr.			
By balance of profit and loss account, carried from last year		2,221.08	
To net gain on working		574,159.06	
		\$576,380.14	

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—Dr. E. W. Von Tunzelmann, who will be well remembered here as the chief mover in the foundation of the Straits Medical Society, has returned to Singapore from North China, where he has been in private medical practice for several years. Dr. Von Tunzelmann is settling down here once more for the practice of his profession.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the Manager at the Mines per steamer *Mennuir*:—

Mount MacDonald, 14th February, 1898.
Prospecting Shaft Gold lease 37 has been deepened to 85 feet. We have put up here also a whip pole, as hauling by windlass is getting far too slow. If I can let a contract advantageously to sink the remaining 120 feet I shall do so. Contract work is far more satisfactory to a company and I shall arrange it as soon as possible for all our workings. There is no particular change to report here, only we are getting into more settled country and have now the same smooth and well defined footwall as in the Great Eastern. This is a good sign and we are confident of being on the right track.

Old Great Eastern Drive.—Since my last report this shaft has been sunk 10 feet. From my first report you will remember that the huge reef had dipped north under foot at the end of the old drive and that the face of the latter showed a very hard bar freely mixed with mineral. To get at the other shutes of gold higher up the hill this bar has to be broken through and there are now indications that we have nearly done so. It has been a very tough job, the country being of the hardest stone intermixed with veins of asbestos, as per enclosed samples, and mineral carrying a little gold, which made boring exceedingly difficult.

Great Eastern Main Shaft is down to 130 feet from the brace. The ground is getting better for sinking now. In lengthening the whip road here, we came across another reef, gold bearing and dipping in the direction of the other leaders. Our prospects in this hill are indeed very rosy. The latter reef comes from the Zulu line of reef.

The Zulu Main Shaft has been sunk another 8 feet, making a total depth of 91 feet from the brace. The water is getting a little less heavy and we must soon have drained the old workings, when we shall be able to get on faster. The footwall in the north end of this shaft is highly intermixed with quartz streaks, carrying a little gold, and we shall in all probability soon cut another good shute of gold here.

The Caledonian Main Shaft has been very troublesome for the last week. We broke at last through the hard bar, but with cutting softer ground we got an enormous inrush of water from the old workings, so that for days nothing has been done but bailing, the men standing up to their waist in water. We are mastering it now and with it we see the water in the old workings reducing and when the latter are drained we shall have no more trouble. The Champion shaft in the Gully is almost drained and I shall soon be able to let you know the width of the lode at the bottom of it. This inrush of water (through floors) from all the old shafts and drives delays our sinking, of course, but with better ground we expect to soon make up for lost time. We have bailed at no less a rate than 18,000 gallons of water per diem. The Caledonian shaft is now 92 feet from the brace.

Rain has been copious during the week.

LAU-KUNG-MOW COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LIMITED.

The fourth General Meeting of the Lau-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Ilbert & Co., on the 9th March. Present, Messrs. C. J. Dudgeon, Chairman, A. Korff, J. W. Young, Chung Liang-yue, John Stenhouse, A. W. Danforth, H. F. L. Bell, Harvey, W. T. Phipps, A. Cushman (Jr.), W. D. Little, G. Biron, J. W. Guedes, Li Wei-kee, Vander Stegen, and W. H. Drummond.

The Chairman said—In proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, which I presume you will be content to take as read, I would take the opportunity of saying a few words regarding the working of the Company since we met in April of last year. In my remarks at that meeting I said that the first year of the Company must necessarily be one largely of organisation, for in starting an

important industry new to Shanghai it was impossible to suppose that there would not be difficulties to contend with before smooth working was attained; in this expectation of difficulties we have not been, any more than I suppose have been our neighbours, disappointed. One trouble, however, that we have met with has been of an altogether unfortunate nature, namely, the late arrival of our machinery, caused by the strike amongst the machine-makers at home; this not only caused us a regrettable increase in the cost of our plant, owing to the heavy fall in exchange which occurred in the middle of the year, but also delayed our work in an unfortunate manner, the result being that it was not until somewhat late in the year that we had what may be termed a working sufficiency of spindles running. The chief local difficulty that we have had to contend with has been the matter of labour, not so much as regards the quantity; there has been sufficiency enough of raw material, but the demand for trained labour has naturally been far in excess of the supply, resulting in an exasperating independence amongst the work-people which has been a source of endless trouble. I cannot say that this difficulty as regards labour has yet been overcome, but with the constantly increasing number of trained hands, things are working so much more smoothly, and as the leaven of training spreads the difficulty will finally disappear. We all know what the Chinese are, in what a conservative groove their minds run, and the difficulty is apparent of all at once converting an agricultural class—which is the class from which we mainly recruit—into a manufacturing class, but once get the change effected, once get these people into the manufacturing groove, and I confidently believe that Chinese mill-hands will be equal to any in the world. It may, I think, be fairly stated that our period of organisation is over, and that the training of our hands to more skilful working is now our main objective, but before leaving this subject I wish to make acknowledgment of how much our work of organisation has been assisted by the indefatigable exertions of our Mill Manager, Mr. Menphine; as one of the General Managers I am naturally qualified to speak of Mr. Menphine's work; he has certainly not spared himself, and his personal work, coupled with his constant supervision and patient instruction of the work-people, merits full recognition. There is one anxiety, so often connected with new enterprises, from which we have been altogether free, I mean anxiety as regards the working of the machinery, which from the starting of the first spindle has worked in all departments with absolute smoothness. I hope, and believe, therefore that now with the mill in full and efficient working order, we are fairly started upon a period which will speedily prove to you in substantial form the value of your property. Turning to the accounts, we have followed the precedent of the other mills in publishing only profit and loss account and the balance sheet, though information as regards spinning account is open to any shareholder who may apply to the General Managers for it; the balance of profit of spinning account is Tls. 21,104.96, a result which in the circumstances may be considered fully satisfactory. The entries on either side of profit and loss account about equalise one another, leaving a balance on this account of Tls. 21,108.57; the directors recommend that balance be carried forward, and I trust that you will agree in the wisdom of this policy, for I wish to say with perfect frankness, that so far as my book-keeping experience carries me, it is practically impossible, in starting a first balance sheet covering a constructional period, to arrive at absolute correctness as to the results of working; we therefore consider that this first balance of profit should be carried forward and not dealt with for the purposes of dividend. With regard to the balance sheet, I have no doubt that in the matter of cost of buildings and machinery, comparisons have to be made between the accounts now before you and the previously published accounts of the other mills, and if such comparison is based upon simple rule of three as to the cost of a 25,000-spindle mill as against the cost of one for 40,000 spindles, our expenditure will seem unduly high; I dealt with this matter in some measure in my remarks at our meeting in April, when I explained that the directors had departed from

the original plan of the buildings, enlarging them with a view to extension of spindles, and I stated that the buildings thus enlarged were capable of holding between 40,000 and 50,000 spindles; similarly with the machinery, although we have only 25,000 spindles erected, engine power is provided for the larger number, and the buildings are sprinkled and treated throughout their whole extent; consequently a rule of three comparison does not hold good, for cost of extension means only cost of machines. The directors are of opinion that, now that we have got the 25,000 spindles as it were in hand, the gradual extension of the mill should be proceeded with, and notice is given you of a resolution which I shall later on propose to this effect, asking you in the first instance to give your authority for an immediate extension of 5,000 spindles; the directors have no intention of "rushing" this matter of extension, but they feel that they are warranted in asking your approval of a policy of gradually increasing the number of spindles, guided by the circumstances and experiences of the Company's working. The balance sheet shows an expenditure of Tls. 34,000 odd on Chinese houses and land; it is to be explained that the building of houses intended for occupation by the Chinese connected with the mill did not form part of the original scope of the Company. I may mention that the funds for the work have been arranged for by special overdraft; the directors are of opinion that not only will the possession of these houses in close proximity to the mill greatly assist the labour question, but that the investment will prove a remunerative one. The item "unexpired rent" is explained by the fact of the first three years' rent of the mill site having been taken in shares by the lessors. The liabilities show an overdraft with the Company's bankers of Tls. 194,000, against which may be placed the amount of Tls. 113,500 shown on the other side of the account as value of stock, and further the overdraft includes the specially-arranged-for expenditure on the Chinese houses. In the matter of his overdraft, however, the directors are of opinion that the Company should not work so close-hauled, but should place itself in an easier monetary position by the issue of the remainder of the authorised capital, and a resolution to this effect will be proposed to you to-day; I think that this policy will at once recommend itself to you, for although banking facilities as regards advances on assets, such as cotton and yarn, can no doubt at any time be arranged as required, yet for anything beyond that it is only business that the Company should provide its own funds; furthermore to carry out the proposed extension requires the raising of more money, the original issue of capital being only intended to provide the first 25,000 spindles. That, gentlemen, concludes all that I have to say to you regarding the report and accounts, but before putting the resolution for their adoption, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions that you may desire to put to me.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. M. Young—That the Report and Accounts be passed.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. M. Young—That the Directors be and they are hereby authorised to issue the remainder of the Share Capital of the Company now unissued, such shares to be offered at par to the present holders of shares in the proportion of one share for every three shares standing in their names in the books of the Company on the 16th day of March 1898. No shareholder shall be entitled by reason of his holding any number of shares less or other than three or some multiple of three to any fractional interest in the shares to be issued as aforesaid. Such offer shall be made by notice specifying the number of shares to which the shareholder is entitled and limiting the times within which the offer if not accepted will be deemed to be declined, and after the expiration of such time or on the receipt of an intimation from the shareholder to whom such notice is given that he declines to accept the shares offered the Directors may allot or otherwise dispose of the same to such person and on such terms as they think fit.

Carried nem. con.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. Korff—That discretionary power be and is

hereby given to the Directors to increase the present number of spindles up to the full capacity of the mill and that they be authorised to make an immediate addition of 5,000 spindles.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. W. D. Little, seconded by Mr. A. W. Danforth—That the appointment of Mr. J. M. Young as a Director of the Company be confirmed.

Carried.

Proposed by Mr. J. Stanhouse, seconded by Mr. W. D. Little—That Mr. A. Korff and Mr. Chung Liang-yue be re-appointed Directors of the Company.

Carried.

Proposed by Mr. W. T. Phipps, seconded by Mr. A. Cushny—That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected as the Company's Auditor for the current year and that his remuneration be fixed at Tls. 250 per annum.

Carried.

This concluded the business.—N. C. Daily News.

CRICKET.

A CLUB XI. v. A NAVAL XI.

Had the Hon. Secretary had any idea at the time the above match was arranged that the Navy would be able to place in the field perhaps the strongest XI. of the season, he would have collected a much stronger Club XI. Undoubtedly the arrival of the *Barfleur* and the two new destroyers strengthens the cricket of the Navy in these parts. Smith, Ward, and Lethbridge were drafted into the Club XI. at the last moment, and it was just as well, because without Ward's two fine longfield catches, Lethbridge's useful bowling, and Smith's severely and rapidly hit not out 122 in the second innings, the Club would have come out not only beaten, but perhaps disgraced.

Winning the toss and batting in the order of men's arrival, the Club made a poor show in the first innings for reasons that have been reiterated in former cricket reports. Gillett Bainbridge, and Bedwell were the successful bowlers and they were backed up by some very fair fielding. On batting, the Navy easily passed the Club score and in the end made 190 runs, of which Bedwell and Captain Jellicoe claimed 71 and 40 respectively. Bedwell hit very hard and showed what an improving and useful cricketer he is, whilst Captain Jellicoe's innings was very sound. Lethbridge bowled best on the Club side. In their second essay, the Club ran up 193 for 5 wickets in an hour and ten minutes, to which the Hon. Secretary, who hit up a chanceless 122 not out, was the chief contributor. This is, we understand, his first century and he has our congratulations upon getting the coveted three figures.

Appended are the score and analysis:—

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Dr. Bodington, c Gillett, b Bainbridge	3		
S. Robinson, b Gillett	8		
Capt. Carey, R. A. b Gillett	0		
T. S. Smith, b Bainbridge	16	not out	122
D. Wood, b Gillett	12		
A. Mackenzie, c Borrett, b Bedwell	20	not out	2
A. Ward, l.b.w., b Allison	4	b Bedwell	0
Aleut. Lethbridge, c Mar-ryat, b Bedwell	4	c Groves, b Bedwell	18
Morris, b Bedwell	5	b Allison	19
L. Anderson, not out	0	c Allison, b Perry-Ayscough	3
P. A. Cox, run out	0		
Extras	14	Extras	19
	86		183

BOWLING ANALYSIS.					
Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Gillett	12	3	38	—	3
Bainbridge	12	4	20	—	2
Bedwell	3	1	3	—	3
Allison	24	—	11	—	1

NAVY ELEVEN.					
H. Bedwell (Immortalite), c Ward, b Wood	71				
Lieut. S. A. Perry-Ayscough (Immortalite) b Smith	15				
J. L. Allison (Barfleur), b Lethbridge	10				
Lieut. J. P. Barton (Whiting), b Lethbridge	4				
Lieut. H. A. Gillett (Fame), c Ward, b Wood	9				
Lieut. G. Borrett (Barfleur), run out	15				
Capt. Jellicoe (Centurion), c Anderson, b Lethbridge	40				
Lieut. Farie, l.b.w., b Smith	4				
V. Marryat (Immortalite), b Bodington	6				
J. Bainbridge (Barfleur), l.b.w., b Bodington	12				
R. Groves (Immortalite), not out	9				
Extras	9				
Total	204				

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Lt. Lethbridge	19	1	56	—	—	3
T. Smith	13	—	62	—	—	2
Cox	3	—	12	—	—	—
Mackenzie	4	1	13	—	—	—
Wood	5	1	25	—	—	2
Bodington	3	1	10	—	—	2

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

CARBINE MATCH.

The third match between teams representing the Dock Detachment of the Field Battery and the A Machine Gun Co., resulted in a win for the Machine Gun Co. team by 24 points. Out of the three matches fired between these teams the Machine Gun Co. has won two and the Dock Detachment one. Corporal Skelton made the highest score in the third match, viz., 93.

The following were the scores:—

A MACHINE GUN CO.

	200 yards.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Total.
Corpl. Skelton	27	33	33	93
Sergt. Lammert	30	28	31	89
" Smyth	31	30	25	86
" Shepherd	30	30	25	85
Lieut. Maitland	28	28	23	79
Gunner Bruce	22	24	27	73
Sergt. Crombie	29	22	19	68
Gunner Northcote	25	19	16	60
	222	214	197	633

DOCK DETACHMENT, F. B.

	200 yards.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Total.
Sergt. McPhail	28	33	23	84
Gunner Stewart	27	27	28	82
" Gilchrist	24	32	24	80
Corpl. Rutter	23	31	20	74
Gunner Wilson	23	27	28	78
Lieut. Macdonald	26	26	20	72
Gunner Gow	24	26	22	72
" Deas	28	26	13	67
	203	228	178	609

MACHINE GUN COMPETITION.

The following is the result of the Machine Gun competition held at Repulse Bay on the 12th instant:—

Detachment	Shooting.	Fire	Total.
Commander.	Discipline.		
Sergt. E. C. Shepherd	200	70	* 270
Corpl. A. H. Skelton	156	90	246
Sergt. H. Crombie	105	85	190
Gunner O. D. Thomson	25	60	85

Ranges were 1,000 yards and 700 yards.

Sergeant Shepherd's detachment therefore wins the prizes.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

ROYAL ENGINEERS' PRIZE.—3RD RACE, 13TH MARCH.

Course.—Stonecutters (port) Cowchow Rock (port), Stonecutters (starboard); 16 miles starters:—

Active	Mr. H. E. Pollock
Meteor	Mr. T. W. Lammert
Maid Marian	Mr. J. Hastings
Phoebe	Mr. F. H. May
Erica	Mr. A. Denison
Chanticleer	Mr. C. A. Tomes
Dart	Dr. Clark

There was a light west wind at 11.30 when the starting gun went, and the boats got off fairly well together. Chanticleer, Meteor and Maid Marian went away in the close reach to Stonecutters, with Erica and Phoebe next. At the north side of Stonecutters the wind freshened up and Maid Marian and Erica got away from the others. On clearing the Island it was a long tack for the rock, and Maid Marian made an extra to windward, in order to weather Cowchow but Erica made for the sea side of the Island followed by Phoebe and Dart. Chanticleer and Meteor following the Maid. Active had run into a calm and gave up. The rock was rounded by the leading boats as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
Erica	1	34	30
Maid Marian	1	39	50
Chanticleer	1	41	50
Phoebe	1	44	30

In the run back to Stonecutters the wind got lighter as the Island was neared, and the boats all closed up on the leader. It was a drift with a west wind until the first boat got near the finish, when the breeze piped up again and the line was crossed at the following:—

	Times.	Corrected.	Points.	Total.
Erica ...	3 42 41	3 42 41		1
Maid Marian	3 43 8	3 40 37	4	14
Phoebe...	3 46 27	3 39 44	10	10
Chanticleer	3 47 40	3 40 41	1	5
Meteor...	3 49 11	3 42 13		10
Dart ...	4 24 2	4 7 43		5

The prize was thus won by the Maid Marian with 14 points.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

KOWLOON WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—I observed in your paper the other day an official statement about the decreased quantity of water in the Tytam and Pokfulm reservoirs. Doubtless when a similar statement is made up of the amount of water in the Kowloon reservoir it will be found that the decrease in quantity is remarkably small, as for some reason or other the Water Authority dismantled several of the hydrants over here some three or more weeks ago, without giving the residents the slightest notice whatever. Will the Hon. the Director of Public Works therefore be good enough to order the hydrants to be put in a proper state of repair at once, as surely the residents at Kowloon are entitled to some consideration in the matter of water supply, as they are charged for the article.—Yours truly,

KOWLOON.

Kowloon, 11th March, 1898.

KWONGCHOW-WAN, THE FUTURE PRINCIPAL PORT IN FRENCH CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—A short time ago you published a communicated article on the above topic, in which the writer mentioned that the geological formation of the neighbourhood was of carboniferous age and that therefore coal would be probably found there if sought for. This statement has been partially verified by news appearing in your issue of the 9th inst., under the heading of "Canton Notes," for one of these notes is that coal had been found at Limchow and that the Viceroy was sending an officer down to investigate the find.

Limchow, or Liemchow, is the name of the Prefecture adjoining Tonkin on the coast, and that in which is situated the treaty port of Pakhoi. There is a town of that name a little distance up the river which discharges into the sea a few miles from Pakhoi. The town of Liemchow is about fifty miles W.N.W. of Kwongchow Wan. This find of coal is likely to lead to Pakhoi being a coal exporting port and will thus add considerably to its importance, for vessels of the heaviest draft can find good safe anchorage there.

Further search will doubtless result in the finding of coal at Kwongchow Wan, itself, or in the immediate neighbourhood, and if so that place will be of supreme importance as a naval station, offering as it does perfectly sheltered anchorage for an immense fleet and great facility of defence from attack by a hostile squadron, and with its double outlet convenience for entering and leaving in spite of blockade.

Is Kwongchow Wan to be a British or French possession? It will never be retained by China in the coming dissolution of that gelatinous empire. I fear, as a Britisher, that it is destined to be French.

Kwongchow Wan, as noted in the article you published, dominates the Prefectures of Luichow, Kochow, and Liemchow.

The large peninsula on the mainland opposite Hainan constitutes the Prefecture of Luichow; Liemchow is on the coast to the westward of that peninsula and Kochow is on the coast to the eastward of it. It is well, also, to remember that these three prefectures dominate the

Valley of the West River, and that the Valley of the West River dominates the Yangtze Valley.

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1898.

THE FEES AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your valued paper of to-day I notice with regret that the authorities have decided to increase the fees of scholars of Queen's College. There can be no two opinions as to this unwise step, as most of the parents are in poor circumstances and cannot afford to pay \$2 instead of \$1 for an elementary education and \$3 instead of \$2 for education in the upper classes. This increase has caused much surprise and pain to most of the poorer parents (and they are many), who must either pay a high fee for their children's education or leave them without any proper education at all. I believe there can be no justification for the above increase. Instead of encouraging education, which every European Government is doing, our Government is discouraging it. Their action will compel many of the poorer scholars to leave, as will soon be seen. I therefore sincerely trust that the Government will reconsider their decision in the matter, and allow the present fees to remain in the interests of

EDUCATION.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1898.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, No. 1, Kiukiang Road, on Friday, the 11th of March, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (in the chair), C. J. Dudgeon, J. C. Bois, J. Chapsal, Wade Gardner, F. W. Koch, A. Korff, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, A. Werth, and the Secretary. The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Mail Contract:—The Chairman explained that he had had a conversation with the Agent and the Inspector of the Messageries Maritimes Cie. lately at this port about the desirability of delaying the closure of the mails until noon on Tuesday, and that those gentlemen offered to do what they could in the matter. The meeting decided to write to the Agent of the Company at Shanghai asking him to put the proposal before his Directors with the object of effecting the desired change.

Native Shareholders in Foreign Companies:—The Senior Consul's reply to the letter sent him on the 28th of January last on this subject was read, and owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the communication it was resolved to address the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps direct, calling attention to the seriousness of the questions involved, and that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Board of Consuls.

Methods to prevent the Adulteration of Tea:—A letter from the Senior Consul was laid before the meeting, which covered a dispatch from the Taotai embodying a decree from the Viceroy Liu concerning measures that it was necessary to take to prevent the adulteration of Tea. As the Taotai requested the assistance of the Chamber in the matter, it was decided to refer the dispatch to Messrs. J. W. Harding, J. Welch, and E. Davis, as representatives of the Tea trade, for their consideration and advice.

Exploration of Hunan:—The Chairman explained the nature of the agreement made with Captain M. O'Sullivan, now exploring the province of Hunan, to furnish the Chamber with a report in his investigations, and stated that the preliminary letters received from Captain O'Sullivan were extremely interesting, so that there was every reason to believe that his report would be a valuable document.

The Annual General Meeting:—A draft of the Report for 1897 was considered and agreed to by the Committee, and the Annual General Meeting was fixed for Thursday, the 31st of March, at 4 p.m.

After the transaction of other business the following correspondence was ordered for publication:—

Shanghai, 3rd January, 1898

SIR,—With reference to the dispatch of the Senior Consul addressed to you under August

2nd last, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a dispatch of the Dean of the Diplomatic Body at Peking of December 8th last, relating to the case between the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Ltd. (in liquidation), a British Institution, and its Chinese shareholders.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. DE URIARTE,

Consul-General of Spain and Acting Senior Consul.

C. J. Dudgeon, Esq., Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

(Copy.

Peking, 8th December, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that your communication of July 22nd last addressed to me as Dean of the Diplomatic Body relating to the case between the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits, Ltd. (in liquidation), a British Institution, and its Chinese shareholders has been considered by the Foreign Representatives.

They have instructed me to say that on careful consideration of the papers connected with this case, it does not appear that the Shanghai Taotai has definitely expressed his inability to enforce written contracts entered into by his nationals with foreigners in all cases, but in this particular case.

As to the Foreign Representatives entering a protest against the general principle involved, they are of opinion that taking into consideration the diversity of the law of contract amongst nations, it would not be expedient for them to enter a formal protest against such general principle.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES DENBY.

Dr. O. Stuebel, Consul-General for Germany and Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, 28th January, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your dispatch S. 2, of January 3rd, enclosing copy of communication from H.E. Col. Denby, Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique in Peking, relative to the liability of native shareholders in a foreign company. His Excellency states that:—"On careful consideration of the papers connected with this case it does not appear that the Shanghai Taotai has definitely expressed his inability to enforce written contracts entered into by his nationals with foreigners in all cases, but in this particular case," and that consequently the Foreign Ministers have not made any representations to the Tsungli Yamen regarding the principle involved.

It appears to this Chamber that the Ministers have overlooked the letter from the late Taotai Liu to Consul-General Hannez dated 16th March last. In that letter, after combating the particular case, the late Taotai clearly stated his view of the principle, or want of principle, involved. He asserted, 1st:—That commerce between China and Foreign Countries is conducted on lines strictly laid down by Treaty. 2nd:—That he cannot find any clause permitting Chinese to take shares in Companies. 3rd:—That if Chinese merchants go into partnership with foreigners for purposes of trade, and disputes occur, they cannot be settled according to Chinese law, nor can they be settled by Western law, nor do the provisions of the Treaties apply.

Acting on the reference to Treaties, we turn to the Treaty of 1858, between Great Britain and China for information, and find that clause 17 reads as follows:—

A British subject, having reason to complain of Chinese must proceed to the Consulate and state his grievance. The Consul will enquire into the merits of the case, and do his utmost to arrange it amicably. In like manner if a Chinese have reason to complain of a British subject, the Consul shall no less listen to his complaint and endeavour to settle it in a friendly manner. If disputes take place of such a nature that the Consul cannot arrange them amicably, then he shall request the assistance of the Chinese Authorities, that they may together examine into the merits of the case and decide it equitably.

The brevity of this clause is proof of its comprehensiveness. The clause contains no limitation whatever but includes every class of dispute or claim. To argue that because there is no

clause in the Treaty permitting Chinese to take shares in Companies, that they (having taken shares) are free from consequent liability, is misleading and mischievous. It might as well be argued that as the Treaty does not make specific reference to any particular class of claim or dispute the clause is inoperative and mere waste paper; and even confining the late Taotai's so-called argument to Companies only, the converse might apply, and Chinese, having invested in Companies, might reasonably be debarred from profits, and possibly deprived of capital!

The Committee of the Chamber are strongly of opinion that this official utterance of the late Taotai should have at once been officially repudiated, and I shall be obliged by your informing me whether this was done, and, if not, whether you and your colleagues are now prepared to convey the necessary correction to the present Taotai in order that all misapprehension may be removed from the official mind in this locality.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. F. ALFORD, Chairman.

Dr. O. Stuebel, Consul-General for Germany and Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Shanghai, 26th February, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th of January last relative to the liability of native shareholders in a foreign company.

This letter was discussed in a recent meeting of the Consular Body when it was decided that, the matter having once been referred to the Diplomatic Body at Peking, the Consular Body could only abide by the views held by the Foreign Ministers as expressed in Colonel Denby's letter of the 8th of December last.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

O. STUEBEL,

Consul-General for Germany and Senior Consul.

E. F. Alford, Esq.,
Chairman,

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

RUSSIA OFFERS TO REMOVE ALEXIEFF AND HER MILITARY INSTRUCTORS.

KOREA GLADLY ACCEPTS.

The *Shanghai Mercury* publishes the following special telegram:—

Seoul, 12th March.

Russia, through her Minister, made the Emperor of Korea an offer to remove Mr. Alexieff and all her military instructors, and demanded an immediate answer. The Korean Government gladly accepted her offer, and upon it becoming known, there was a popular demonstration. Koreans, Japanese, and others are highly pleased.

EXTENSION OF THE TRANSIT PASS TRADE.

In spite of the trouble and work arising from the murdering of the two German missionaries in the Tsao-chow district, and from the Kyao Chao affair, H.E. the German Minister has found time to occupy himself with, and to arrange another matter which will prove of the greatest importance not only to the Germans, but to all the foreign merchants in China. Hitherto, inland-passes—that is to say, passes under cover of which all imports, on paying an extra half duty, can be taken to any place in the interior free of *likin*—were valid only on the condition that the goods described on the pass were actually taken to the place of destination given on the pass and there disposed of. The goods were not allowed to be sold on their way to destination, i.e., in transit. But Baron von Heyking has persuaded the Tsung-li Yamen to alter this regulation and in future imported goods will be allowed sale in transit. Only some trifling formalities have to be gone through, in order to safeguard fiscal interests, otherwise there are no longer any restrictions, and merchants will thus be able to take advantage of every favourable opportunity of selling their goods on the way. We may add that by the

direction of the Tsung-li Yamen the regulations for the new mode of inland transit were drawn up by Sir Robert Hart, and in a form entirely meeting the wishes of the German Minister, to whom great credit and thanks are due for having opened a new road for fair trade.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT KOBE.

On the morning of the 3rd inst. a destructive fire occurred at the Pier company's sheds at Kobe. The *Chronicle* of that date published an account of the outbreak, but the fire was still burning when the paper went to press. In its issue of the 8th our contemporary says:—

Our estimate yesterday of the damage done by the fire in the Pier Company's sheds—which is the most disastrous conflagration which has ever occurred in the history of Kobe—was a very conservative one. Instead of 100,000 yen damage, the estimate will be nearer half a million for cotton only.

According to a notice issued to consignees by the Pier Company, the fire involved cargo brought by the following steamers:—P. & O. steamers *Shanghai*, *Borneo*, *Rosetta*, *Japan* and *Rohilla*; the M.M. steamers *Sydney*, *Natal* and *Océanien*; N.Y.K. steamer *Idzumi-maru*; N.P. steamer *Braemar*; Aust.-Lloyd's *Maria Valerie*; the *Carmarthenshire* and the *Langbank*.

Over 14,000 bales of cotton—principally Bombay—were brought by these steamers, and only a very small proportion of it had been removed by the consignees. The cotton brought by the *Idzumi*, the *Maria Valerie*, and the *Braemar* has suffered most. The insurance risks on this amount of cargo represent of course a very big figure. It is impossible to say to whom the bales partially destroyed belong, as the marks have been burnt off. The object, we believe, of the meeting of representatives of marine and fire insurance offices interested in any way concerned for this afternoon, is to consider what under the circumstances is to be done.

The area covered by the fire was 1,420 tsubo, and altogether twelve buildings were demolished. These were insured by the Pier Company for nearly 20,000 yen it is said, the risk being the Nippon Fire Insurance Company's. Besides the cotton destroyed (believed to be about 10,000 bales) there were also in the sheds over 60 bundles of cowhides, a quantity of cement, muriatic potash, paint, rattan, tea matting, paper, mirrors, steel, iron, zinc, rice, and some other goods. Altogether, the loss is estimated at 1,000,000 yen.

As to the origin of the fire, nothing definite is known. The conjectures include (1) that it was caused by tobacco ash; (2) a defect in the electric lighting arrangements; and (3) incendiarism. At ten o'clock and again at eleven the policeman on duty there went over the compound and noticed no indication of a fire. About twelve a watchman also went his beat, and about half an hour later two watchmen who had been sleeping in the watchhouse and were about to go on duty noticed fire in one of the sheds and immediately gave the alarm. There were powerful are lights in the sheds and the conflagration is stated to have been spread by the electric light wires.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF CO.

The report and accounts for 1897 of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company show that the available balance, after paying the interim dividend of Tls. 3 per share, is Tls. 111,637, and it is proposed to pay a final dividend of Tls. 5 per share, place Tls. 20,000 to repairs, and carry forward Tls. 16,137.20.

THE TAKU TUG AND LIGHTER CO., LIMITED.

From the report of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Limited, for the year ended 31st December it appears that the net result of the Company's working shows a credit balance of \$111,902.63. This enabled the directors to pay the shareholders a dividend of 7 per cent., in July last, absorbing \$43,000, and after providing for general expenses, &c., and carrying \$52,631.56 to depreciation account, there is a balance of \$12,367.54. Out of this available balance there falls to

be paid the directors' and auditors' fees amounting to \$4,114.28, leaving only \$7,643.26 at the credit of profit and loss; in consequence the directors regret they cannot recommend that any further dividend should be paid out of the year's profits, but that the balance should be carried forward to 1898.

RAILWAY PROJECTS.

It is reported from Wuchang that when the Viceroy Chang learned that Dr. Yung Wing had memorialised the Throne, through the Tsungli Yamen, asking for permission to construct a railway between Chinkiang and Tientsin, the former, in conjunction with H.E. Sheng. Huanhuai, at once telegraphed the Tsungli Yamen to delay the new road until the Hankow-Peking Railway was well on its way to completion, giving the plea that China was too straitened financially to build two great railway lines at the same time. The Tsungli Yamen has, however, recently replied that as Dr. Yung Wing's scheme had already received the approval of the Emperor, the Chinkiang-Tientsin Railway must be constructed as soon as possible, as well as the Hankow-Peking Road.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Chinese Government, on the suggestion of a censor named Wong Shi-wing, are about to issue 1,000,000 promissory notes of 100 taels each bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, repayable in twenty years. The interest is to be paid once every year during the first ten years, and the interest together with a tenth part of the principal is to be paid once a year during the last ten years, so that the loan will be paid off in the twentieth year. People who hold the promissory notes are allowed to sell the same to others. A tenth part of the promissory notes can also be used in each of the last ten years to pay revenue. The promissory notes are to be taken up within two months. The Canton Government is now busily engaged in advising the wealthy Chinese to apply for them.

Owing to no fresh supplies coming in and to smuggling to foreign countries the prices of rice in Canton are exceedingly high, and the daily consumption of the people can hardly be met. A dollar can only buy eighteen catties of inferior quality; this being the highest price rice has touched during the last half century. On the 12th instant the Sansz and the seventy-two guilds went together to see the Viceroy and the Governor, asking them to strictly prohibit the export of rice and to allow the import of rice from other places free of all duties. Their Excellencies have granted the request. Many rice shops which are known to smuggle rice to foreign countries have been destroyed by the people, who robbed all their contents.

As robberies and thefts are daily reported in Canton, the sansz have asked the local magistrates to be allowed to hire lunkongs at the expense of the kaifong people. Their request has been granted.

It is said that the kaifong people will not allow cracker shops to be opened again in the locality where the late disastrous fire broke out, for two disastrous fires have recently occurred in the same neighbourhood and both broke out in cracker shops. It is very doubtful, however, whether the kaifong will be able to carry out their wish, for most of the shops in that locality were cracker shops and had been opened for a long time.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 11th March.

The E. and A. steamer *Airlie* arrived here from Hongkong on Wednesday morning, intending only to stay an hour or two to take on board cargo and passengers for Timor. The weather was fine in the early morning, but after ten o'clock a heavy squall came down from the North and lasted till late at night, so that the launches and cargo-boats could not get near the steamer, and had to run for shelter where they found it convenient. Some people who had gone on board to bid good-bye to departing passengers could not get back

again, and great alarm was occasioned to their friends on shore, who feared that some accident had happened to them. Some ten or twelve people who had gone off, intending to return almost immediately, had to remain on board all night, and did not get back until about nine o'clock on Thursday morning, and it was not until that time that the steamer was able to take on board from the junks and launches the cargo, luggage, and a few prisoners for Timor that she had to receive. The delay and confusion occasioned much trouble to the Harbour Department.

The stamps commemorative of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the sea route to the Far East by Vasco de Gama are to be placed on sale at the Post Office on the 1st April and will remain in use until the 30th June. Collectors should not lose his opportunity of adding to their collections rare specimens. I have heard that the series is an exceptionally fine one.

The Committee which has been formed to carry out the erection of a statue to Governor Amaral and Colonel Mesquita has issued an appeal to the Portuguese in this colony and in the foreign colonies and settlements of the Far East for subscriptions. No doubt there are some of these who have forgotten that Macao is their home, but an occasion such as this cannot fail to stir their patriotism and move them to assist in perpetuating the memory of the heroes who saved this colony from invasion by the Chinese. Even those who have never seen Macao must remember that their fathers or grandfathers hailed from this place, and should assist in the work not only for the glory of the Portuguese nation but also of this colony in particular.

The gunboat *Bengo* left on Monday *en route* to Goa.

Rice is again growing dearer day by day. This is said to be due to the Chinese authorities refusing to let rice come to Macao from the neighbouring districts. The Governor is looking into the affair and no doubt the difficulties will soon be removed and free importation be allowed as heretofore.

HONGKONG

The past week has been unusually quiet and very little of local importance has transpired. The Philippine rebellion, Spanish denials notwithstanding, is of very serious moment, as the whole of the north of Luzon seems to be in a troublous state. The telegraph line between Bolinao and Manila is still interrupted, and every endeavour is being made to establish a connexion. The *Edgar* is at Bolinao guarding the interests of the English staff at that station, which was at one time in very great danger of seizure. The shareholders in the National Bank of China met on Saturday last. The death of Mr. H. Cook, late secretary and manager of the New Club, is still forming the subject of enquiry before the Magistrate.

Vice-Admiral Seymour arrived here from the North on Monday in the *Alacrity*.

There were 2,680 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 220 were Europeans. No cases of rinderpest occurred either on the 14th or 15th instant at Sassoons Villa, Pokfulum.

A Chinaman who returned from banishment was on Wednesday sent to gaol for twelve months with hard labour.

For playing fantan on the *Braemar* a Chinaman was on Wednesday fined \$25 with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment.

On 11th March the Indian charged with the forgery of a fellow countryman's savings bank book, whereby he obtained \$260, was committed for trial by Commander Hastings.

On Monday afternoon a garden party was given by Mrs. Black at Government House in honour of Prince Henry of Prussia. The *Deutschland* has gone into dock and Prince Henry is now the guest of H.E. the Acting Governor.

On 11th March, in accordance with the leave granted, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., applied to his Lordship the Chief Justice to amend the petition in the Gubbay and others v. Belilios suit so as to make the case one for specific performance. The application, which was made in Chambers, was refused.

The stamp revenue last month was \$26,251, being an increase of \$7,210 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of last year.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's exequatur has been issued empowering Mr. Kisaburo Uyeno to act as Consul for Japan at Hongkong.

The Appropriation Ordinance for 1898 and the Ordinance to facilitate the Recovery of Possession of Tenements and Premises of small value have been approved.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., from San Francisco of the loss by stranding of the American ship *New York*, which sailed from Hongkong for San Francisco on the 14th January with a General cargo.

An official telegram has been received from Singapore stating that Hongkong has been declared an infected port and that nine days' quarantine counting from the date of departure has been imposed upon vessels arriving at Singapore from Hongkong.

In view of the existence of plague in Hongkong the *Echo Macaense* recommends the medical inspection of all passengers arriving at Macao from this port. Our contemporary ascribes Macao's freedom from the disease in 1894 to the adoption of this measure.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Chei Chi Mei	\$25.00
Yeung Tsit Sam	10.00
Ko Cheuk Sing	5.00

It is notified in the *Gazette* that on and after the 1st April next the fees (payable monthly) at Queen's College will be \$36 per annum for classes I. to III. and \$24 for classes IV. to VIII. The old scale was \$36 for the first class, \$24 for the second and third, and \$12 for the other classes.

We are sorry to learn that the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse is still a patient in the Government Civil Hospital, and that it will be impossible for him to take up the duties of Colonial Secretary when Mr. Lockhart leaves on Saturday. It is reported that the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith will act as Colonial Secretary until Mr. Wodehouse is able to resume his official duties. As a consequence Mr. Smith has been obliged to postpone the date of his departure for England on leave.

A feud exists between two sections of the Portuguese community, the one represented by the Club de Recreio and the other by the Club Lusitano, with reference to the appointment of a Committee to arrange for the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco de Gama. It seems probable that owing to the dissensions that exist the celebration of the event in Hongkong, is not likely to be very successful.

The Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* arrived at Hongkong on the 17th March from Naples. The *Marco Polo* left Naples on the 29th January and coming leisurely along sailed from Colombo on 28th February. She is a twin-screw armoured cruiser of 4,583 tons displacement. Her dimensions are: length 327 ft., beam 48 ft. 3 in., and maximum draught 19 ft. 6 in. Her engines are of 10,000 horse power and she can steam 19 knots. The armament consists of six 5.9 in. quick firers, ten 4.7 in., two 2.9 in., nine 2.2 in. and four, 4 in. guns, and two machine guns, whilst she carries five torpedo tubes, one of which is submerged. She was built at Castellamare in 1890 at a cost of £344,000.

Commander Hastings on Saturday committed for trial at the Sessions the Chinese contractor who is charged with offering a bribe of \$30.60 to W. S. Triscott, an overseer of works engaged on the Praya Reclamation. Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the defence. The defendant endeavoured by means of a bribe to induce the complainant to prepare false returns of work done. The complainant fixed a day for the payment of the bribe and then informed Mr. J. R. Mudie, engineer on the works, of the defendant's offer. They arranged with Detective Sergeant Gidley a plan for catching the defendant, and on the day fixed Mr. Mudie and the detective secreted themselves in a room in the Praya Reclamation office, where they overheard the defendant offering the bribe, and he was then arrested.

H.M.S. *Barfleur*, a sister ship to the *Centurion*, arrived here on 11th March in company with the torpedo boat destroyers *Whiting* and *Fame*. Good weather was experienced from Singapore except on Thursday, when rough sea was encountered.

On Thursday afternoon the Royal Lancaster Regiment and the Asiatic Artillery went out to the neighbourhood of Belcher's Battery for target practice. On the return journey the troops were joined by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, which was well represented by six 7 prs. and four Maxim guns, all of which were fully manned, together with the drum and fife band. H.E. Major-General Black was in command and thousands of Chinese assembled along the line of route (Queen's Road) to witness the return of the troops.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 28th February, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	\$2,808,273	\$2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	\$7,676,009	\$3,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	\$ 448,587	\$ 205,000
Total	\$10,932,869	\$5,205,000

At 12.30 on Saturday morning a fire broke out on the first floor of No. 2, Graham Street. The ground floor is a pork and wine shop, and the first and second floors are used by families. The fire was, it is thought, caused by lighted joss sticks igniting a thin wood partition. Immediately the outbreak occurred a message was sent to the Central Police station and the fire Brigade quickly attended. About \$400 worth of goods perished and about \$600 in money was also lost. The ground floor was not damaged. The loss suffered on the first and second floors was not covered by insurance. The goods were formerly insured in the Palatine Insurance Company, but the policy expired on the 2nd of this month and it was not renewed. Unfortunately the fire was attended by a fatality. The staircase was in flames and all the inmates but one escaped from the house by climbing over the verandah next door, but one old woman was unable to escape in that way and she jumped from the first floor into the street. She was taken to the hospital, where she died soon after admission either from shock caused by burns or by the leap into the street.

We translate the following from the *Courrier d'Haiphong* of the 12th March:—The steamer *Mathilde* arrived on Thursday morning from Hongkong having on her bill of health a note by the French Consul mentioning that a few isolated cases of plague, not epidemic, had occurred at Hongkong. By order of the Principal Medical Officer the vessel was placed in quarantine. She had on board, besides a full cargo of general merchandise and sheep, a hundred and thirty-eight Chinese, of whom eleven were for Haiphong and a hundred and twenty-seven for the Kebao mines. The Medical Officer required that these Chinese should be interned in the lazarette, where they were to be kept under observation for four days. The discharge of the cargo having been forbidden by the same order, Messrs. Speidel and Co., the consignees of the *Mathilde*, protested, and declared that if the order was enforced they would suspend all business between Haiphong and Hongkong. In consequence of this the authorities gave instructions that free pratique was to be granted as regards the sheep and merchandise of all descriptions. It will be remembered that plague is endemic at Hongkong and that in 1894, in consequence of an unfortunate application of sanitary regulations at Haiphong, made, contrary to the interests of trade, by the Principal Medical Officer, there was a diminution in the Customs receipts of about three hundred thousand dollars. In the present year, which has opened badly, we do not want our poor budget to be subjected to similar losses.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece

Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.75	to	1.85
7lbs.	2.00	to	2.07
8.4 lbs.	2.50	to	3.20
9 to 10 lb.	3.40	to	4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40	to	2.60
58 to 60 ..	2.75	to	3.45
64 to 66 ..	3.55	to	4.40
Fine	4.35	to	7.15
Book-folds.	3.80	to	5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.65	to	1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.55	to	1.75
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	1.90	to	2.15
6lbs. (32 ..) Mexs.	1.70	to	1.85
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.10	to	2.80
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.40	to	3.25
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	3.75	to	5.15

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 7 lbs.	1.47 1/2	to	3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.90	to	5.00
Damasks	0.12	to	0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08	to	0.14
Velvets—Black. 22 in.	0.20	to	0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16	to	0.18
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45	to	0.90

WOOLLENS

per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.55	to	1.35
German	1.15	to	1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.15	to	5.25

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50	to	9.00
Assorted	6.60	to	9.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.00	to	32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	11.00	to	20.00
Orleans—Plain	7.00	to	8.50
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	5.50	to	12.00

METALS

per picul

Iron—Nail Rod	4.20	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	4.20	to	—
Swedish Bar	5.90	to	—
Small Round Rod	4.75	to	—
Hoop	5.50	to	—
Wire 15/25	9.00	to	—
Old Wire Rope	1.50	to	3.00
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ...	8.55	to	—
Australian	8.55	to	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	31.50	to	—
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	31.00	to	—
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	31.00	to	—
Composition Nails	—	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs.	30.00	to	—
Tiles	29.00	to	—
Tin	—	to	—
Tin-Plates	6.05	to	—
Steel 1/2 to 1	5.50	to	—

SUNDRIES

per picul

Quicksilver	126.00	to	—
Window Glass	4.20	to	—
Kerosene Oil	1.87	to	—

SHANGHAI, 12th March.—(From Messrs. Noë Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—The steamers have been arriving here during the week on their return trips from Tientsin, and the written advices brought by them fully confirm the favourable reports received by telegrams respecting the market. The latest state that fully 70 per cent. of the goods shipped have already found buyers at satisfactory prices, but there is no doubt that they were hurried forward too early, for it is impossible to distribute the cargo until the creeks inland become navigable. However, these obstacles do not seem to have deterred buyers from operating freely and greatly to the advantage of sellers. The consequence has been quite a run on the cheaper makes of American Sheetings, holders of which have succeeded in advancing their prices gradually. In English makes 8.4 lbs. Shirtings have met with most attention, but the available supply of these is steadily shrinking. In fact stocks all round are being rapidly reduced. There is some uncertainty as to when Newchwang will open, recent advices from thence reporting the severest cold they have had this winter. The

23rd instant is now put down as the earliest that steamers can be safely despatched for that port, though in some quarters a much later date is thought probable. Caterers for that market are laying in supplies quietly, a fair quantity being already in Steamer Godowns awaiting shipment, roughly estimated at 18,000 packages. Direct steamers for Vladivostok are expected to commence running next week, some 3,000 packages being ready for the first boat. The Chefoo market has been very quiet, but at the close is showing more activity. Hankow is suffering from a superabundance of rain and has not been forwarding orders very freely. News was received a few days ago of the pioneer steamer at Chungking, thus demonstrating that the waters of the upper Yangtze are navigable by light draught steamers, and great credit is due to Mr. A. J. Little for his perseverance in at last overcoming all the obstacles that have been put in his way for so many years. The market is undoubtedly strong for goods on the spot and afloat and prices are gradually tending upwards, but the lower Exchange and high prices ruling in Manchester make forward transactions extremely difficult. The market for Yarns is firm, and a good business has been done in favourite spinnings for Tientsin in both Indian and Japanese, though it is reported that some fairly large shipments of the latter have been made direct.

METALS, 11th March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfield & Co.'s Report).—There has been a fair number of transactions, as recorded below, both Chefoo and Tientsin report a brisk demand for Cart-tyres and Horse-shoes, which accounts for the heavy transactions recorded. A feature of the week has been the landing of the first shipment of American Pig Iron, from Alabama, 300 tons being put on the market, of which 150 tons have already been disposed of. This Iron can be laid down here from 5s. to 6s. cheaper than "Red Car," but so far the latter old favourite still has the preference among native buyers despite the difference. The following transactions have been completed:—200 tons Angle Iron at Tls. 1.60 to Tls. 1.70, 100 tons Ship Plates at Tls. 1.60 to Tls. 1.70, 50 tons Fire Bars at Tls. 1.45, 20 tons Boiler Tubes at Tls. 2.25, 200 tons Cart-tyres, London and Glasgow at 10s. to 10s. 6d., c.i.f., 150 tons Alabama Pig Iron at 63s., 500 kegs Wire Nails at 9s. 2d., c.i.f., 20 tons Ship Plate at 27s. c.i.f., 1,200 bundles Mild Steel Bars at 139s., c.i.f., 50 tons Hamburg Horse-shoes at Tls. 2.27, 100 tons London Horse-shoes at 87s. 6d., c.i.f., 100 tons Schier Nailrods at 125s. c.i.f.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 18th March.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.32
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.36

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.87 1/2
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight	74 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	10 % pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	9 % pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 % pm.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 10.72

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 55.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 18th March.—The market continues active and a fair business has been put through, chiefly in Indo-Chinas, Sugars,

and Steamboats. Several stocks show a good advance in rates and the market generally closes steady to strong, except in Insurances, which continue out of favour and almost without business.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled somewhat quiet and erratic, and only a very few small lots have changed hands at 190 per cent. and 189 per cent. prem. and at equivalent rates on time; buyers forward rule the market at time of closing, but holders do not care to part except for cash and then even to a very limited extent. Nationals have improved with a small sale to \$18 1/2.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of a small demand for Straits at \$12 1/2, the market has been quite dead and there are no sales to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—The market continues very quiet and without business at quotations.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue quiet and weaker, sales having been effected at \$27 1/2, \$27 1/2, and \$27 for cash and the settlements, further shares being obtainable at the last rate. Indo-Chinas have ruled very firm and in good demand, with sales at the improved rates of \$57 to \$60 1/2 cash and at \$57 1/2 to \$61 for settlements. A fair number have also changed hands at \$62 for April, \$63 for May, and \$64 for June. Market closes with sellers at \$61. China Manilas have been quiet with shares obtainable at quotation. Douglasses have found buyers at \$59, \$59 1/2, and \$60, closing with sellers at \$59 1/2. China Mutuals unchanged and with a small business at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have more than recovered their position and have been dealt in to a considerable extent at \$173, \$174, \$175, \$176, \$177, and \$178 for cash and settlements and at much better than equivalent rates for April, May, and June; at time of closing forward shares are still in request, but a few cash shares are obtainable at \$178. Luzons continue quiet and neglected consequent upon the renewed trouble in the Philippines. The directors recommend a dividend of \$3 per share payable on the 24th instant.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled rather stronger and after small sales at \$6 1/2 have found buyers at \$6.60, \$6.70, and \$6.75, closing steady. Charbonnages have not yet recovered last week's weakness and are obtainable at \$145 and at \$147 1/2 for April in small lots; there appears to be no specific reason for this weakness. New Balmorals and Olivers continue out of favour with little or no business to report. Jebebus unchanged. Raubs have continued steady at \$25 1/2 and \$25 1/2 with sales at first the latter and then the former rate, market closing with buyers at \$25 1/2 and probable sellers at \$25 1/2. Great Easterns remain dull and with a small business at \$2.80 for ordinaries.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continuing in demand the rate quickly rose to 250 per cent. premium after small sales at 242, 245, 247, and 248 cash and at 247 and 251 per cent. prem. for April; more shares are wanted forward for June, but holders will not sell so far ahead; shares could also be placed for April and May at the equivalent of the closing cash rate, i.e. 250. Kowloon Wharves and Wanchais have continued very quiet and without business at quotations.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with sellers and only small sales at \$74. Hotels have improved to \$54 with sales and close steady to strong at that rate. Humphreys Estates are on offer at \$8.25 without finding buyers and West Points remain quiet and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands in fair lots at \$31 and \$15 and at \$31 1/2 and \$15 1/2, closing with buyers of the old at \$31 1/2 and sellers of the new at \$15. The directors recommend a dividend of 25 per cent. and to carry forward and place to reserve the sums of \$240.91 and \$1,000 respectively. Watsons have found buyers at \$12, but close with sellers at that rate. Ices have changed hands at \$107 and Ropes and Fenwicks at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	189 1/2, sales
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	21	£5. 5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$ 8 1/2, sales
Founders Shares...	21	\$17, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	21	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4.75
China Sugar	\$100	\$178, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo...	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong	20	\$10, sales
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 112, sellers
Lao Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 110, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 505, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 90, sellers
Dairy Farm Co.		
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$31 1/2, buyers
Do. New Issue	22 1/2	\$15, sales
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$120
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$107, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	250 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$13 1/2, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$100, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$67, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 198
Straits	\$20	\$12 1/2, sales & buyers
Union	\$50	\$220, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$14 1/2, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$74, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$8.25, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17 1/2
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$11, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$145, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5.30, sales
Do. Do.	22 1/2	\$2.80, sal. & buyers
Jebeu	\$5	\$2, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.50, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.50, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$19, sellers
Do. B. ...	22 1/2	\$1 1/2, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6.75, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.90, sales & buyers
Raub	13s. 10d.	\$25 1/2, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$19	\$17, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$32, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£10	£7 10s. sales
Do. Preference	10	£5 10s.
Do. Do.	25	£2.15s. sales
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$54 1/2, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$27, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$61, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do. Co.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'ise	\$37 1/2	\$40, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 14th March.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—Business has not been so brisk this week, a scarcity of ready money having curtailed business. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business was done early in the week at 196 per cent. premium for cash, and 207 per cent. for the 30th June. Political telegrams which arrived on the 9th caused a weakness, prices declining 4 per cent. in Hongkong. There has since been some recovery, and shares were placed to Hongkong at 190 and 191 per cent. premium and locally at 195 to 197 per cent. premium, all for delivery on the 31st March. Bank of China and Japan.—The question of the continuation of the business of the Bank after the completion of the liquidation of the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits has been raised, and as the Directors of the Bank are strongly in favour of this course, they ask for powers of attorney from the shareholders in order to carry this into effect. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' shares have been forced off at \$65. North China shares are offering at Tls. 210. Yangtze shares are wanted at present quotations. Straits shares are obtainable at \$13.50, but buyers will not pay more than a dollar less. Fire In-

urance.—No business is reported on this market. Shipping.—Indo-China S.N. shares have been placed to Hongkong at \$56, and locally for cash at Tls. 41.60 and Tls. 42, and for the 31st current at Tls. 41. China Mutual S.N. shares are obtainable, Preference at Tls. 60, and Ordinary at Tls. 26. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 40. They are wanted now at Tls. 39, and are held for Tls. 40. China Sugar Refining shares were placed for March and May at \$180. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are wanted at \$41. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed at \$27. Docks. Wharves and Godowns.—Shanghai Dock shares have been in strong demand, and have been placed at Tls. 80 cash, and Tls. 82 to Tls. 85 for the 30th June. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—Shares have been sold at Tls. 127 cash, and for the 31st current at Tls. 127.50 and Tls. 128. There are sellers at Tls. 127 cash. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92.50, and are offering. Industrial.—In Cotton Mill shares Ewos were sold for the 30th June at Tls. 104, International at Tls. 111.50 to Tls. 110 for the 31st March, Lao-Kung-Mows at Tls. 112.50 for May and June, and Soy-chees at Tls. 505. China Flour Mill Co. shares are offering at Tls. 60. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands for cash and the 31st current at Tls. 88, at which there are shares offering. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 300 cash and Tls. 315 for the 31st March. Hall and Holtz shares were placed at \$40. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 102, plus the accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 18th March.—A fair number of settlements have been reported during the past fortnight, and freights from the rice ports have advanced. From Hongkong to Kobe as much as 40 cents per picul was paid last week, but the demand for tonnage has since slackened. Saigon to Hongkong, the rates have steadily increased and 34 1/2 cents can be obtained for medium-sized prompt steamers, but for large boats loading a month hence intending charterers will not pay more than 26 cents per picul; to Japan the current freight is about 14 cents at which figure several steamers have been fixed. Bangkok to Hongkong, 37 1/2 and 42 1/2 cents per picul is offered for medium-sized steamers, and 35 and 40 cents per picul for large; to Japan several steamers have got from 52 to 53 cents per picul. Coal freights are still weak at \$1.50 per ton Moji to Hongkong, and \$2.50 per ton to Singapore. Newchwang to Canton one settlement has been effected at 35 cents per picul loading at the opening of the port.

There are no disengaged vessels in port.

The following are the settlements:—

Atlantic—German barque, 633 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$3.100.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 35 cents per picul.
Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 957 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Taisang—British steamer, 1,505 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Bangkok to Kobe, 53 cents, Yokohama 55 cents per picul.
Baron Douglas—British steamer, 1,606 tons, Bangkok to Kobe, 52 cents per picul.
Oanfa—British steamer, 1,970 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.
Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, three trips, Bangkok to Hongkong 37 1/2 and 42 1/2 cents per picul.
Tientsin—British steamer, 1,250 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 40 cents per picul.
Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 44 cents per picul.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 45 cents per picul.
Taisang—British steamer, 1,505 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 44 cents, Yokohama 45 cents per picul.
Whampao—British steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Yokohama, 42 cents per picul.
Elphinstone—British steamer, 1,14 tons, two trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 and 25 cents per picul.
Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 27 1/2 cents per picul.
Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 29 cents per picul.
Wosang—British steamer, 1,127 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 29 cents per picul.
Chun Sang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

Mongkut—British steamer, 859 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 cents per picul.
Apenrade—German steamer, 610 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 37 cents per picul.
Martha—German steamer, 1,530 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 38 cents per picul.
Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.
Oslo—Norwegian steamer, 778 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 32 1/2 cents per picul.
Dante—German steamer, 1,302 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.
Rio—German steamer, 1,265 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 33 cents per picul.
Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 34 1/2 cents per picul.
Taifu—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, \$9,000.
Osniopolit—German steamer, 671 tons, monthly, 6 1/2 months, \$4,300 per month.
Tordenskjold—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, monthly, 9 months, \$5,400 per month.
Ask—Danish steamer, 592 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Patroclus (str.), Socotra (str.), Borneo (str.), Oopack (str.), Bengal (str.), Dardanus (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Rio de Janeiro (str.), Gaelic (str.), Benalder (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Benalder (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).
For PORTLAND.—Mogul (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Tokio Maru (str.), Taiyuan (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Oceanic (str.).
For VICTORIA.—Columbia (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—
ARRIVALS.
12, Taisang, British str., put back.
12, Jacob Christensen, Norw. str., from B'kok.
12, Nausban, British str., from Bangkok.
12, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
12, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
13, Tsinan, British str., from Kobe.
13, Progress, German str., from Saigon.
13, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
14, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
14, Prometheus, British str., from Amoy.
14, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
14, Alacrity, British des. ves., from Swatow.
14, Handy, British torp.-bt., from Swatow.
14, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
14, Benvenue, British str., from Saigon.
14, Energia, British str., from New York.
14, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
15, Dante, German str., from Saigon.
15, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
15, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
15, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
15, Taicheong, German str., from Swatow.
15, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from S'pore.
15, Catherine Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
15, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
15, Tetartos, German str., from Moji.
15, Rio, German str., from Yokohama.
15, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
16, Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
16, Donar, German str., from Kobe.
16, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., from Keelung.
16, Menmuir, British str., from Australia.
16, Menelaus, British str., from Liverpool.
16, Tordenskjold, Norwegian str., from Moji.
16, C. H. Kian, British str., from Singapore.
16, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
16, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
16, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
16, Onsang, British str., from Java.
17, Firebrand, British gunboat, from Pakhoi.
17, Marco Polo, Italian cr., from Singapore.
17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
17, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
17, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
17, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Yokohama.
17, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
17, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
17, Elphinstone, British str., from Saigon.
18, Yungching, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
18, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
18, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., from Mororan.
18, Palinurus, British str., from Liverpool.
18, Edgar, British cruiser, from Balinal.

- 18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
 18, Dean, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
 18, Gisela, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 18, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 18, Prosper, Norw. str., from Swatow.
 18, Kaiserin Augusta, Ger. cr., from Kiaochau.

March—DEPARTURES.

- 12, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Hansa, German str., for Saigon.
 12, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 12, Loyal, German str., for Yokohama.
 12, Natal, French str., for Europe, &c.
 12, Tamsui, British str., for Chefoo.
 12, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Gerda, German str., for Yokohama.
 12, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 12, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 13, Benvorlich, British str., for Nagasaki.
 13, Cosmopolit, German str., for Kobe.
 13, Erato, German str., for Hamburg.
 13, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Mongkut, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 13, Peshawur, British str., for Kobe.
 13, Taisang, British str., for Kobe.
 13, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 14, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 14, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
 14, Prometheus, British str., for London.
 14, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 15, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Keelung Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 15, Venus, British str., for San Francisco.
 15, Paul Rickmers, Ger. ship, for Singapore.
 15, Braemar, British str., for Portland.
 15, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 15, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 15, Martha, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 16, Anapa, British str., for Iloilo.
 16, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 16, Energia, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Taiwan Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
 16, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 17, Daphne, German str., for Vladivostok.
 17, Kachidate Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 17, Progress, German str., for Kobe.
 17, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
 17, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
 17, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Canton.
 17, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
 17, Glenavon, British str., for Saigon.
 17, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Menmuir, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Foochow.
 17, Tateyama Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 17, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 18, Wuhu, British str., for Takow.
 18, Atlantic, German bark, for Rajang.
 18, Cheang-Hock Kiau, Brit. str., for Amoy.
 18, Menelaus, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 18, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 18, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 18, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 18, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Natal*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Mrs. Lubeck and 2 children, Messrs. Walker B. Marens, K. Fakahashi, Ichinomiya, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Robison, Messrs. O. E. Kelley Cravens, Campbell, O. Wegenen, A. R. Marty, F. X. Remedios, K. Tisarva, Rene Kahn, Mrs. Peterson, Messrs. Xavier, Berthelot, and Zeng Zang Kang; from Woosung, Commandant Lombard; from Yokohama, Messrs. Babou, John Galt, J. K. Hunt, B. C. Davidson, Lum Sik Che, and Izaka; for Saigon from Yokohama, Mr. Pouponneau; for Singapore from Shanghai, Messrs. J. Grant, J. Adam, and J. Currie; from Woosung, Miss Orner, Capt. H. W. Peck, Mr. C. A. Bampfyld, and Mr. J. A. Pellon; for Colombo from Shanghai, Mr. Adrien Hamid; for Port Said from Woosung, Mr. Charles

Duding; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Capt. Bohr, Mr. How, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and 2 children, Mr. Guffens, Mr. and Mrs. Courbon, Mr. Corensin Herroux; from Woosung, Messrs. Dubuffet, Pereira, Mrs. and Miss Pereira and 2 children, Miss Ogleby, and Mr. Seriani Jean.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Elena Farver and 2 children, Messrs. E. Dumas, F. W. Voit, Count Candelaria and son, Messrs. Eladio Ojinaja, Antonio Ojinaja, Vincente Triono, Manuel Natividad, and Enrica Galan.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from Southampton for Hongkong, Messrs. Williams, H. Burgmann, P. Metyken, C. H. Bond, and C. Prideaux; for Yokohama, Messrs. E. A. Brown, J. N. Buxton, J. Hirata, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Messrs. F. Young, Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Inouye; for Vladivostok, Messrs. A. Cagas and G. Buquets.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Dr. and Mrs. Cousland and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp and 2 children, Mrs. J. S. Roach and 2 children.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong from Colombo, Messrs. Ch. Pavol, P. R. Marshall, Batholt, Mr. and Mrs. Ahearn, Mr. Franklin, Miss Lillias, Miss L. Mesch, Miss Lezzie Burns, Messrs. Eymonds, How Shong, Mrs. Cherria Asamy, Mr. Rama Ravo; from Singapore, Messrs. A. Pair, S. W. Cartwright, M. C. E. Samuel, Gates, Gaitskell, Mrs. Hoffmeister, Mr. Halliday, Miss Satan, Mrs. Ch. M. Creary, Miss M. C. Clark, Messrs. Cohn, Davies, Potter, Max Heller, Mr. and Mrs. P. Foch, daughter and 2 infants; from Saigon, Messrs. Edwards, Kuttian, Luzarche d'Azay, and Mrs. Ricco; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. T. K. Loive, Dr. Arthur Stanley, Messrs. Rydzewoski, Belaieff, de Nully and infant, Miss Demaison, Sisters Jeanne, Gabrielle, Louise, Antoinette, Vincent, Marie, Revs. Cottin, Bonnay, Chiapetto, Chennisky, and Mr. Reynaud; from Colombo, Mr. L. Bridon; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Joaquin Paga; from Saigon, Messrs. Labrude and Dalvy; for Nagasaki from Singapore, Mrs. Quachamy, Mrs. Ohsonki, Messrs. Otakoli and Hyoshi; for Kobe from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. J. Petrico; from Singapore, Mr. Kobore; from Saigon, Messrs. Akita, Kaway, and Yokohi; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. S. Kosaka, T. Katayama, K. Takayama, K. Adachi, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Kerbedz, Messrs. Paul May, Adolphe May, Kochibe, Sughi, Mr. and Mrs. Baumann, Messrs. Fugita, Yoshu and Nicholas Matunine; from Suez, Mrs. Catherine A. Blood, Mr. James Chambers, Mrs. Thereze Rawoth; from Singapore, Mr. F. Bonnet.

Per *Prometheus*, from Amoy, Messrs. MacPherson and 1,300 Chinese.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco, Lieut. B. O. Scott, U.S.N., Mrs. J. A. Awris, Mrs. F. Wildes, Miss Wildes, Messrs. R. Kofuku, John Holliday, A. A. Madera, H. C. Lamatte, Capt. C. J. C. Wittmus, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Banks, Miss Banks, Mrs. Ransom, Master Ransom, Baron Von der Goltz, Mrs. Ellman, and Mr. J. C. Gardner.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Messrs. A. Stewart, C. Blashki, R. Noda, A. Rosario, M. Cousin, and C. Meyers.

Per *Hailoong*, from Tamsui, Rev. Wm. McGregor, Dr. and Mrs. Riddell.

Per *Catherine Apar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Longhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Cozine, Mr. and Mrs. Halcombe, Mrs. Coburn, Mr. Prange, Miss Kuoke, Mr. and Mrs. Hose, Mrs. Packenham, Messrs. Vaz Subadar G. Khan, Howson, Wong Fat Chon, Campbell, and Melady.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama, Messrs. T. A. Singleton, H. B. Clayton and T. Oda, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Bowden and children, Misses Nelson and Black.

Per *Menmuir*, from Australia, Mrs. McArthur, Miss Neilson, Miss Deacon, Messrs. W. Cumming, J. Dickinson, J. Hardy, H. Kelsall, A. D. Pedley, Thompson, T. Willcock, Commander Boracutra d'Almores, Dr. Machado d'Arango, Messrs. Cory G. Jose Sasti, Jose Sing Marguese, Father M. Alvares, Messrs. D. M. B. Lagos, F. Fullerton, and H. Marshall.

Per *Chowfa*, from Bangkok, &c., Messrs. Schultze, Van der Zupen, Allen, Murray, and Stephenson.

Per *Tosa Maru*, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Messrs. Muter and Pomroy, and Miss Tugrey.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai for London, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Harris and infant, Mr. A. Wilson, Mrs. and Miss Youngson and child, Messrs.

R. Phillips and Lennox; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Burkill; for Hongkong, Messrs. H. P. Wadman, Chan Tsz-hai, K. Kanahami, K. Ito, S. Akashi, and H. Uyeno.

DEPARTED.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, for Yokohama, Messrs. E. A. Brown, Buxton, J. Hirata, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Messrs. F. Young, A. Cazas, G. Buquet, Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Inouye, Mrs. Young and 3 children, Messrs. Y. Kohira and Y. Okasawara.

Per *Natal*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Messrs. Ngan Hong Po, Ngan Kai Po, Dollang, S. Yamamoto, and K. Funamoto; for Singapore, Miss Gordon, Messrs. Bowen, J. Steele, and W. Velge; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. T. Watson, and Miss A. Watson; for Djibouti, Mr. Charmay; for Marseilles, Messrs. J. Courtin, F. S. Monteith, and P. Spolding; from Woosung for Saigon, Mr. Pouponneau; for Singapore, Miss Orner, Capt. H. W. Peck, Messrs. C. A. Bampfyld and J. A. Pellon; for Port Said, Mr. C. Duding; for Marseilles, Mr. Dubuffet, Mr. Pereira, Mrs. and Miss Pereira and 2 children, Miss Ogleby, and Mr. Seriani Jean; from Shanghai for Singapore, Messrs. L. Grant, J. Adam, and J. Currie; for Colombo, Mr. Adrien Hamid; for Marseilles, Capt. Bohr, Mr. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and 2 children, Mr. Guffens, Mr. and Mrs. Courbon, and Mr. Corensin Herroux.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Botter, R. Krauss, F. W. Heald, A. Schone-mann, F. B. s'Jacob, Chung Sen Hao, Lum Yu Hao, Ho Wing Yau, Paul Sachse, L. Schall, A. J. Battle, J. H. Grimes, G. Banker, D. W. Le Lacheur, J. McArthur, J. E. d'Aquino, Mr. and Mrs. Ehlers and child, Mrs. M. Allemao and child, Miss V. O. Coelho; for Nagasaki, Messrs. M. A. Sugamuna, M.I., M. S. Friede, H. J. van Braambeck; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Orr, Mr. F. R. Sylva; for Yokohama, Mr. Quong Ying Chong.

Per *Haitan*, for Amoy, Messrs. Moller and Wm. Croar; for Foochow, Messrs. L. S. Crawford, C. E. Pierce and Kut Wan.

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